

# Classroom Activity

## 10 Big Question: How will we conserve species diversity?

### Design your own parasite

Parasites are adapted to suit their specific host environment, giving them the best opportunity possible to survive and reproduce. In this activity, you will design your own parasite with all the adaptations needed to survive your chosen environment. You may like to research parasite morphology before you begin.

#### Planning your parasite

1. What animal will be the host for your parasite?
2. Where does the host animal live (land or water)?
3. Where will the site of infection be?
4. Is your parasite going to live on the outside of your host or within it?
5. What will it be attaching to?
6. Will your parasite need clamps and suckers or hooks and barbs? How many?
7. What body shape and size will allow it to be most successful for your chosen host and site of infection?
8. How will it feed itself? Is it an external parasite that feeds on skin and mucus or an internal parasite that feeds on blood?

Once you have answered these questions, design your parasite and present it with an explanation of the morphological characteristics you have chosen and why.