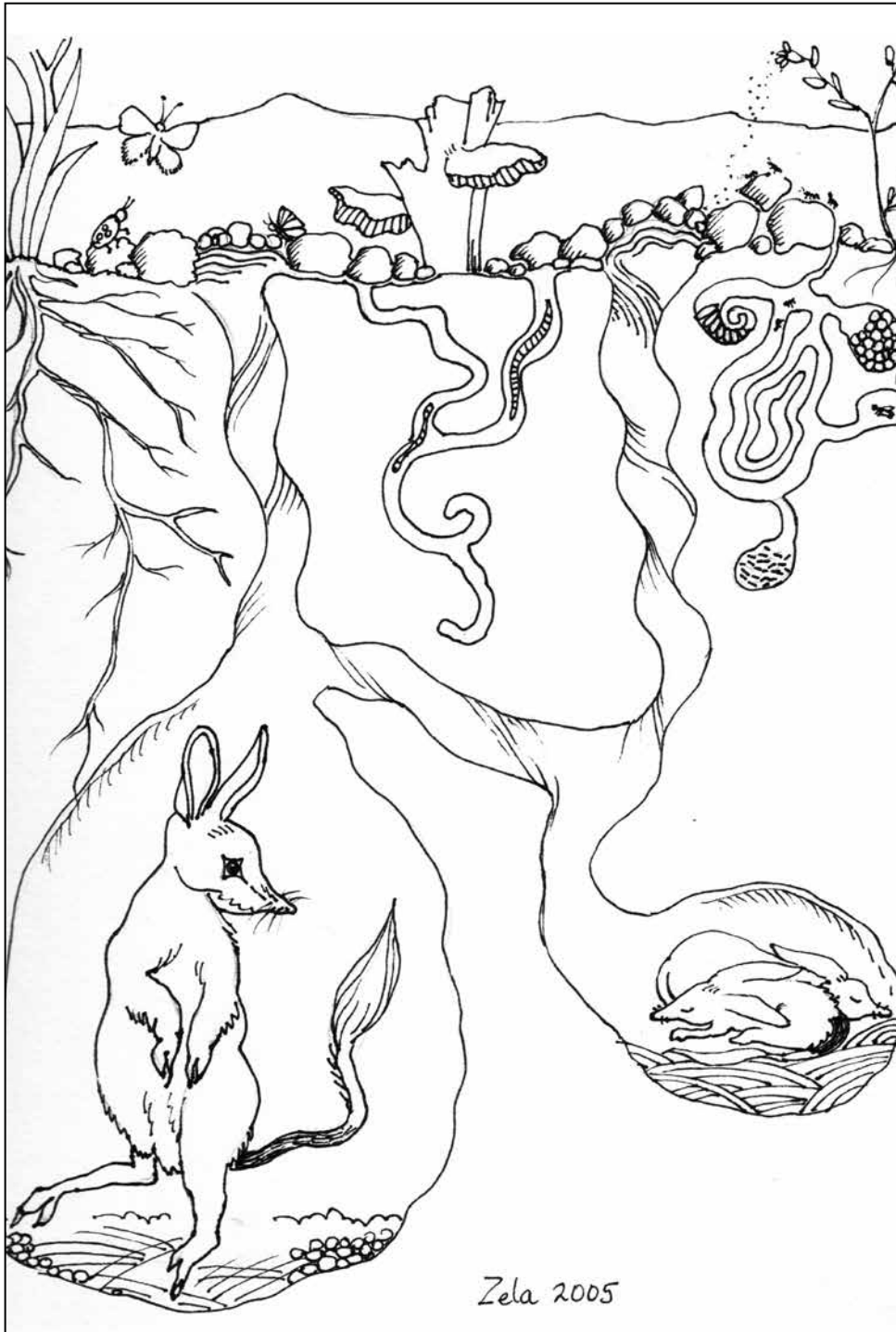


Mother Bilby and Babies

Worksheet



Here is a picture of a mother bilby and her twin babies in their burrows deep under the ground. You can learn a lot about bilbies by colouring this picture and answering the questions.

1. Mother bilby aims her big ears towards the chamber where her babies are sleeping to make sure all is quiet. Bilbies have poor eyesight but excellent hearing.
2. Bilbies make twisting spiral entrances to make it more difficult for predators to find their burrows.
3. Bilby babies sleep about 2 metres underground to keep them cool and safe. Mother bilbies often have twins but may also have a single baby or sometimes triplets.
4. Mother bilby is also staying underground in her burrow because bilbies are strictly nocturnal. She will not go out to hunt until it is fully dark outside, usually around 8pm.
5. Above the burrow are some of Mother Bilby's favourite foods. Can you write the correct name beside the food source? Tick off the ones you have found.
Moth___ Bug___ Fungi___ Ants___ Worms___
6. Ants also build their homes underground. They store food, babies and their queen in different chambers.
7. Worms live in the soil. As the day gets hotter and the soil dries out, they will travel deeper underground.
8. Desert plants need very deep roots to find moisture far below the surface. Prickly plants like Spinifex lose less moisture through their leaves than softer-leaved plants.
9. Two native predators of the bilby can be seen in the picture. Write H beside the hawk and S beside the snake.
10. Name the two introduced animals which have been responsible for the decline of the bilby over most of its former range:

(a) _____ (b) _____