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Bilba Builds the Best Burrow

A note for grown-ups

Bilba's quietest adventure holds the most astonishing fact in the whole series! Here are some wonderful things to share with your child about bilbies the master builders — and a few questions about kindness and doing things well.



Homes for 25 species!

This is the amazing true fact behind the story. A single bilby burrow can shelter up to 25 other kinds of animals. When a bilby moves on, its burrow becomes a home for many other desert creatures.



Ecosystem engineers

Scientists call bilbies 'ecosystem engineers' — animals whose everyday lives reshape the land and make it better for everything around them. Just by digging, a bilby helps the whole desert.



Master diggers

Bilbies dig deep, spiralling burrows up to 2 metres down using powerful front claws. The burrows stay cool in the heat and warm at night — perfect shelter from the harsh desert.



Who moves in?

Spinifex hopping-mice, tiny dunnarts, skinks, legless lizards, and even harmless blind snakes all shelter in bilby burrows. None of them could dig such a deep, safe home for themselves.



Always on the move

Bilbies don't stay in one burrow for long — they dig new ones often. That's exactly why their old burrows become homes for so many other animals across the desert.



Endangered and precious

Fewer than 10,000 bilbies remain in the wild. Because bilbies help so many other species, protecting them helps protect the whole desert community that depends on their burrows.

Talking points for after the story

- Bilba built her burrow just for herself — but it became a home for many others. Have you ever made something that turned out to help someone else?
- Why do you think Bilba worked so hard to make her burrow perfect, even the parts no one would see?

- The little skink smoothed the wall just like Bilba did. Have you ever learned to do something by copying someone else? ironbarkpress.com.au • ironbarkpress@outlook.com • (07) 3062-7450