2 Climate Change
Reading and Understanding

1 Predit.

Look at the three animals in the pictures.
Write the name of each animal.
Make some predictions about why each animal is under threat.

Learning Strategy

Making predictions before you read is important because it activates your knowledge about a topic.

Animal 1 ....

Animal 2 ....

Animal 3 ....

Climate change not only affects humans, it is also having a significant impact on animals around the world.

Experts believe that the Arctic sea ice is melting at a rate of 9% per decade due to global warming. As a consequence, many polar animals are at risk. For example, polar bears hunt, rest and raise their young on sea ice. Their main food source is seals, which they can only hunt on the ice. As the ice melts, it is harder for polar bears to survive and consequently many polar bears are dying.

Sea turtles leave the ocean to lay their eggs on nesting beaches. However, because sea levels are rising, nesting beaches might disappear. Therefore, turtles will not have a place to lay their eggs in the future. Furthermore, the temperature of a turtle's nest determines whether eggs are male or female. Warmer temperatures result in female eggs. In the future, there might be more female than male turtles so turtle populations will be under threat.

Koalas live in trees and eat eucalyptus leaves. However, as a result of increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, eucalyptus leaves contain less protein. Therefore, koalas have to look for alternative sources of food which puts them at risk of attack by other animals. Global warming has also resulted in more wildfires and because koalas live in woods, their habitat is at risk.