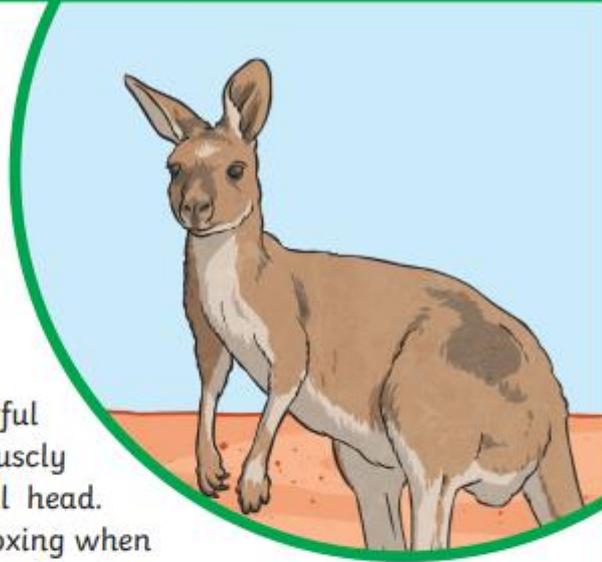


Kangaroo

Kangaroos are marsupial mammals that are found in Australia including Tasmania. They are also found in New Guinea.

The kangaroo has large, powerful hind legs, large feet, a long muscly tail for balance, and a small head. Male kangaroos can be seen boxing when competing for the attention of a female.



Kangaroos are social animals that live in groups called 'mobs'. They are herbivores so they eat plants, leaves and different grasses.

Kangaroos can reach a weight of 90kg, and can hop at speeds of up to 60km/h.

A male kangaroo is known as a boomer, buck, jack, or old man. The female kangaroo is known as the doe, jill, or flyer. A baby kangaroo is known as a joey.

The Red Kangaroo is the largest marsupial in the world. It can leap as far as 8m and 3m high.

Echidna

The echidna is a highly adaptable creature that can be found throughout Australia. They are found in coastal forests, alpine meadows and deserts. The echidna has the widest distribution of any native Australian mammal.



The echidna has a skinny snout and a long flicking tongue which is perfect for catching insects. It also has very sharp spines, known as quills, along its back and sides.

When an echidna is threatened, it will curl

inwards leaving only its quills exposed. This is a form of protection from predators.

Termites and ants are what echidnas love to eat. They especially love eating beetle larvae which are a type of soil invertebrate. Their sharp claws are what help them to find termites as they often hide in rotting logs.



Emu

The emu is Australia's largest bird and the world's second largest. It comes second to the ostrich.

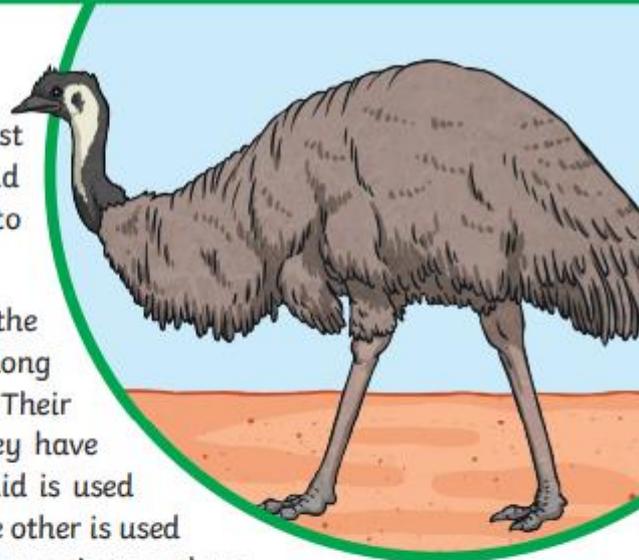
Emus are very unique in the way they look. They have long necks and very sharp beaks. Their ears are quite small and they have two sets of eyelids. One eyelid is used to keep the dust out while the other is used for blinking. Altogether they have six toes, three on each foot. On each foot there is a talon which is used for fighting and protecting themselves against predators. Emus have very soft light brown feathers. They are also known to grow between 1.5-2 metres in height and can weigh up to 60kg.

They are flightless birds.

Emus like to eat whatever they can find. However, they really enjoy grains, flowers and berries. They also like to eat insects and grubs which they find by digging around in the ground.

Emus like to eat a lot of food especially if there is a lot around them. When they eat lots, the food is stored as fat. They can then survive for longer periods as they go in search for more food.

Emus live in flocks or pairs.



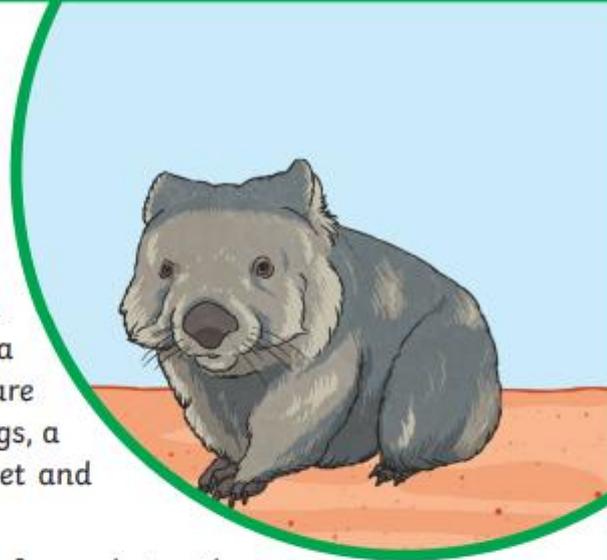
Wombat

Wombats are native only to Australia. They are marsupial mammals.

Wombats are small and look like a cross between a bear, a pig and a gopher. Their bodies are built for digging, with short legs, a compact head, short broad feet and strong claws.

There are two basic kinds of wombats, the bare-nosed wombat, and the hairy-nosed wombat.

Wombats are nocturnal grazers, which means they hunt for their food at night.



Wombats mainly eat grass and roots, and they live in large burrows up to 30 metres long. The burrows are made mainly from roots of fallen trees, compacted soil, leaves and rocks.

They are extremely strong and proficient diggers. Wombats can be anything from sandy coloured to brown or black, to grey. The average wombat is about 1 metre long and weighs about 25kg.

Wombats are generally solitary, which means they are unsociable and like to be alone.

Possum

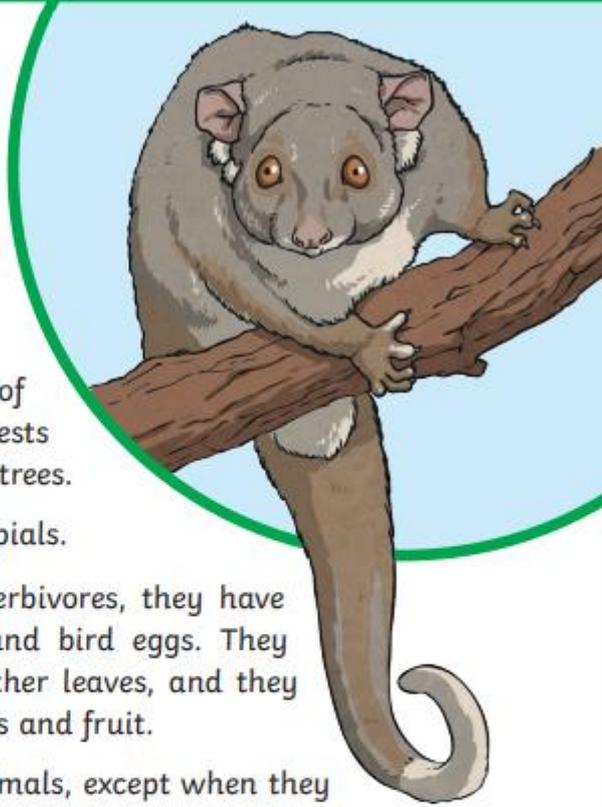
There are 23 possum species in Australia. The most common species are the brushtail possum and the ringtail possum.

Most possums live in hollows of tall trees, while some build nests known as 'dreys' in bushes or trees.

Possums are nocturnal marsupials.

While possums are mainly herbivores, they have been known to eat insects and bird eggs. They mainly eat eucalyptus and other leaves, and they also love eating nectar, flowers and fruit.

Most possums are solitary animals, except when they are raising their young. The ringtail possums tend to live in family groups of three or more.



Koala

Koalas are native to Australia. People still incorrectly refer to koalas as 'koala bears'. They are actually marsupials and are closely related to the wombat and kangaroo.

Koalas have sharp claws which they use to help them climb trees. They have five digits on each front paw, with two of them acting like thumbs. This helps them to hold firmly onto the branches and to grip their food. Their back paws are used as grooming paws.

A baby koala is called a 'joey'. Joeys live in their mother's pouch for around six months and will remain with them for another six months or so afterwards.

An adult koala can eat about half a kilogram to one kilogram of leaves each night.

Koalas are mostly nocturnal which means they are awake at night and asleep during the day.

Koalas sleep a lot during the day because they require a lot of energy to digest the toxic, low-nutrition diet that they eat. Sleeping is the best way to conserve their energy.

