

Animals in Australia¹



Koalas

Koalas are marsupials. This means that they are mammals that carry their young babies in a pouch. They look like cute bears but koalas are definitely not bears!

Koalas live in eucalypt forests along the eastern coastline of Australia. They are fragile animals but grow up to 80 cm/ 2.2 ft in height and weigh only about 14 kg/ 31 lbs. Baby koalas are called 'joeys' and hide in their mothers' pouch for the first six months. Koalas eat lots of eucalyptus leaves (1 kg/ 2.2 lbs per day) and sleep up to 20 hours!

Kangaroos

There are about 50 million kangaroos living in Australia, that means there are many more kangaroos than people living in Australia! There are 55 different species of kangaroos.

Wallabies are usually smaller than kangaroos but kangaroos come in all sizes. Some of these marsupials weigh only little and are tiny, others weigh up to 90 kg/ 198 lbs. In many rural areas, kangaroos roam in the bushland. One of the best places to experience kangaroos is Pebbly Beach, a four-hour-drive south of Sydney.



Dingo

Dingos are the biggest carnivorous mammals in Australia. Carnivorous means meat-eating. They can be found all over Australia except for Tasmania although they mainly live in the country's outback. A dingo looks similar to a domestic dog, but has a longer muzzle, larger pointed ears and sharper teeth.

It has a brown furry coat and bushy tail.

Dingos are wild dogs that feed mainly on small animals. Dingos stay alone, but during mating season the dingo is known to mingle with other wild dogs and to hunt in packs of three to twelve animals.

¹ Taken from <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/animals-in-australia.html>

1. Indicate if the following statements are true or false.

- a. Koalas are bears. True False
- b. Koalas live in eucalypt forests. True False
- c. Koalas sleep many hours True False
- d. there are more people than kangaroos in Australia. True False
- e. Dingos are omnivorous. True False

2. Read the text again and indicate which animal(s) correspond with the description.

	Koalas	Dingos	Kangaroos
These animals live in all Australia except Tasmania			
They exclusively eat eucalyptus			
Wallabies are similar to this animal			
They hunt in packs			
They are similar to dogs			

3. Use the words in the box to complete the text.

Domestic	Leaves	Pebbly beach	tail	pouch
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- a. You can find kangaroos in _____.
- b. Dingos have a bushy _____.
- c. Dingos are similar to _____ dogs.
- d. Koalas carry their babies in a _____
- e. Koalas love eating eucalyptus _____