Koala

The koala is a mammal that lives in Australia. It has a thick coat of fur to keep it warm and dry. Its baby is born live and is called a joey. The joey is fed milk from the mother's body. In all of these ways, a koala is like other mammals. But a koala is a special kind of mammal called a marsupial. A female marsupial has a pouch on her underside. This is where she carries her baby as it grows.

When a koala baby is born, it is blind and has no hair. The baby is only about the size of a dime. This tiny baby must crawl up into its mother's pouch. There it will eat, sleep, and grow. Even after it is able to come out of the pouch, it will hop back in when it is scared or sleepy. The baby koala rides on its mother's back until it can take care of itself.

Koalas eat the leaves of eucalyptus trees. Eucalyptus trees are also called gum trees. Koalas eat the tender shoots that grow on the tips of the branches. A koala has two sharp teeth in front for tearing leaves or stripping bark. It has flat teeth in back for chewing the eucalyptus leaves. A koala

rarely goes down onto the ground and usually remains in one tree. It only moves to the ground when it wants to move to a new tree.

A koala rarely drinks water. It gets most of the water it needs from the eucalyptus leaves it eats.

The koala is a nocturnal animal. This means it is more active at night than during the day. A koala doesn't have a home or a nest. Instead, it just wedges its body into the fork of a tree, wraps its arms or legs around a branch, closes its eyes, and goes to sleep.

Drag and Drop the words into the correct sentence.

nocturnal	marsupials	mammal	eucalyptus
wedge	female	pouch	Australia

1. A _____ mother feeds her baby milk.
2. Only the _____ Koala has babies.
3. At night _____ animals become active.

4. A koala baby grows up in its mother's _____.

5. Koalas _____ themselves in a fork of a tree to sleep.

6. Animals with pouches are called _____.

7. The _____ is a kind of tree.

8. Most marsupials live in _____.

Drop Down Questions

1. In this reading passage, gum means:

2. In this passage, fork means:

3. In this passage, bark means:

4. In this passage, shoots means:

Fill in the Blanks (use a single word and be sure to spell correctly)

1. An animal that feeds milk to its young is called a _____
2. Koalas originally came from this country _____
3. This is on the outside trunk of a tree _____
4. Koalas eat the leaves of this type of tree: _____
5. What word is given to an animal that has a pouch? _____
6. A newborn Koala is the size of what coin? _____

7. A eucalyptus tree is also called a _____ tree.

8. New growth on the tips of tree branches is called _____.