

Workshop 1 ~ Australian wildlife

Australia is home to the most extraordinary wildlife on the planet.

Read the animals' descriptions and match the animals to the correct picture.

The **Quokka** is a brown animal with round ears. They can climb trees and look like a very small kangaroo. They also have a pouch. They live mainly on Rottnest Island and they are called the "happiest animals on Earth" because they always smile!

A **Koala** has grey fur, a big black nose and large fluffy ears. It is a marsupial which mainly lives in trees.

The **Tasmanian devil** is carnivorous and lives only in the island of Tasmania. It is black with a white stripe, it often screams and has a foul (=terrible) odour, it is also aggressive, that's why it is named 'devil'.

The **Platypus** has a beak like a duck, a tail (=queue) like a beaver and webbed feet like an otter and it lays (=pondre) eggs! It has mammalian and birdlike characteristics and it is venomous! It is carnivorous and semi-aquatic and mainly lives in rivers and creeks in eastern Australia.

The **Emu** is the tallest and fastest bird in Australia. It has long legs and neck and it is enormous. It can measure up to 2 meters. It does not often attack humans. It is a curious bird and it enjoys swimming.

The **Cassowary** is the most dangerous bird on the planet. It can attack with its sharp claws (=griffes). It has a long blue and purple neck but the colour of its head and neck can change depending on its mood. It also has a massive "casque" on its head.

The **Dingo** looks like a dog but it is a wild animal, it sometimes attacks humans.

The **box jellyfish** is the most venomous animal in the world. It can kill a human in less than four minutes. It is almost transparent, pale blue and almost invisible in water.

The **wombat** is close to the koala. It has grey, brown or black fur. It is herbivorous and usually shy.

The **echidna** is a mammal which lays (=pondre) eggs. It is usually dark brown or black. It has a round body covered with beige and black spikes. It is similar to hedgehogs with a long beak. It has no stomach and it is one of the rare Australian animals that hibernates.

The **kangaroos** are marsupials. They carry their babies in a pouch until they are fully developed. They can hop (jump) as fast as 70km/h. They usually sleep during the day and are active at night. They are also excellent swimmers.

Amazing facts about the animals

88%
About 88% of the animals are endemic to the country – they only live in Australia.

40 million The estimated number of kangaroos living on the continent.

55 The number of kangaroo species.

800 The number of bird species.

The Great Barrier Reef is the biggest coral reef in the world: it is 2,600 km long.

755 The number of reptile species (= the highest number in the world).

Why so many lethal animals?

- There are a lot of dangerous animals in Australia because the soils are very old and infertile. So only the most resistant creatures survive, like cold-blooded predators (reptiles) and insects.
- There are very few mammals because they need a lot of resources to survive (for example, a mammal needs to eat regularly, whereas a crocodile or a python can survive on one good meal... a year!).

Drag and drop the names of the animals under the correct picture:

Emu

Kangaroo

Box Jellyfish

Wombat

Platypus

Echidna

Quokka

Koala

Tasmanian Devil

Dingo

Cassowary





Answer the questions.

Definition of 'endemic animals':

∴ There are 40 million 55 million 70 million kangaroos in Australia
and 12 55 70 species (=espèces)!

∴ The tallest bird in Australia is the it can measure
..... meters !

∴ The Tasmanian devil is named 'devil' (=diable) because

..... always looks happy!

∴ The most dangerous bird on the planet is the because it
can attack with its claws (=griffes).

∴ The is the most dangerous animal on
the planet, it can kill a human in 4 seconds 4 minutes 4 hours !