



Name _____

Date _____

THE WOMBAT

The wombat has an unusual name, and it is an unusual animal. It lives mainly in Australia and Tasmania. It is a marsupial, which means that it is a pouched animal that carries its young inside the pouch. The wombat is a nocturnal animal, which means that it is most active at night.

It is the largest burrowing mammal. The wombat burrows into the ground with its large paws and sharp claws. The pouch faces backwards so that the flying dirt does not get in the pouch. The baby wombat lives in the pouch for up to six months.

This heavy little animal shuffles as it walks. It has very short, stocky legs. The wombat ranges in length from two to four feet. The wombat is an herbivore, which means that it eats plants, bark, leaves, and roots. The wombat has coarse gray or brown fur, a large head, small ears, and a large nose. The wombat also has a strong back, which it uses to push intruders out of its burrow.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be another title for this reading passage?
 - a. "The Wombat's Diet"
 - b. "The Wombat's Habitat"
 - c. "The Life of a Wombat"
 - d. "Indigenous Animals of Australia"
2. Which paragraph explains the eating habits of the wombat?
 - a. first
 - b. second
 - c. third
 - d. none of the above
3. Locate the statement below that is a fact.
 - a. The wombat is an adorable animal.
 - b. The wombat is a nocturnal animal.
 - c. The wombat loves living in a zoo.
 - d. The wombat's legs are very long.
4. In this passage, the word *burrowing* means . . .
 - a. searching for food.
 - b. using one's nose.
 - c. digging into the ground.
 - d. rooting for bark, plants, and leaves.