



EDUCATIONAL
WORKSHEETS

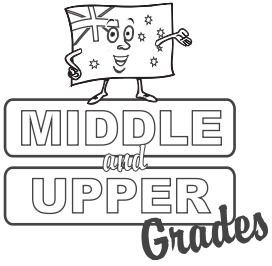
AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WORKSHEETS

A cartoon illustration of a kangaroo sitting upright. The kangaroo is light brown with a white chest and a white pouch. It is wearing yellow shorts. The kangaroo has a friendly expression with a slight smile and large eyes. The kangaroo is positioned in the center of the page, between the words "ANIMAL" and "WORKSHEETS" of the main title.

Writing and Reading
Comprehension Activities
for Primary Students

BURRABOOKS
Educational Worksheets

A small cartoon illustration of a pig, positioned between the words "BURRA" and "BOOKS" in the publisher's logo. The pig is light brown and is facing right.



EDUCATIONAL
WORKSHEETS



*Writing and Reading
Comprehension Activities
for Primary Students*

BURRA BOOKS

www.burrabooks.com.au

Australian Animal Worksheets

written by Greg Porich

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INTRODUCTION

This book has been produced as an aid for classroom teaching. The sheets are not designed to be used in isolation, but rather as a supplement to an overall teaching unit.

Each animal is represented by two pages, containing various activities to be completed by the student. There are facts that can be utilized for classroom discussion as well as being a basis for student research.

The wordsearch activity answers have not been included due to space restrictions. However each has been computer generated and all clues can be found with perseverance.

The cloze activities have answers listed on the back page of this book. Because students are given a choice of answers to choose from, spelling factors can be used, and we have included these in each cloze.

This page also contains research and writing activities. It is not meant for students to do all of these activities but to select from them. They may also be used for extension, homework or projects etc.

The book has been divided into four very broad sections (each with a general information page) as follows:

<h2>REPTILES</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Crocodiles</i>● <i>Frogs</i>● <i>Snakes</i>● <i>Tortoises</i>● <i>Turtles</i>	<h2>FISH</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Crabs</i>● <i>Jellyfish</i>● <i>Octopus</i>● <i>Seahorse</i>● <i>Shark</i>
<h2>BIRDS</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Cockatoo</i>● <i>Emu</i>● <i>Kookaburra</i>● <i>Lyrebird</i>● <i>Seagull</i>	<h2>MAMMALS</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Bats</i>● <i>Dolphins</i>● <i>Echidnas</i>● <i>Kangaroo</i>● <i>Koala</i>● <i>Platypus</i>● <i>Possum</i>● <i>Whale</i>● <i>Wombat</i>

Name: _____

Draw a snake and two lizards sitting on a rock in the sun.



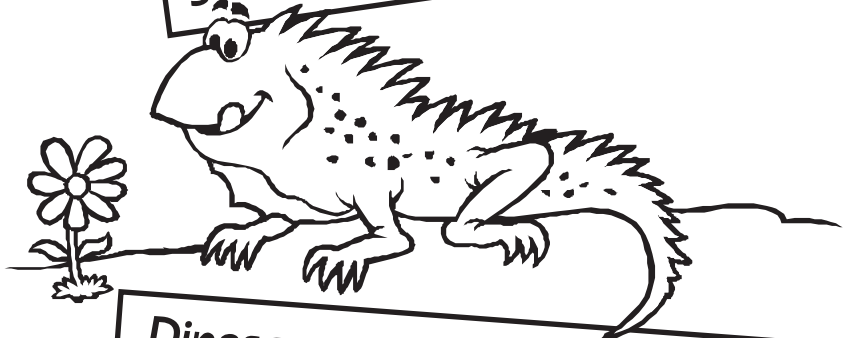
Reptiles

cold blooded	lizard	turtles	reptiles
scaly skin	snake	crawl	backbones
waterproof	crocodile	heat	lungs

L W A R C T
 U I L H K
 R J F A C B B
 T J O T R E D
 F C Q O S O D
 S B P A C C O O
 R A R L D L
 P C E Y I B
 T B A K S E L B
 I O W I U L
 S E N K N S O
 S N A K E

Reptiles are cold-blooded. Their temperature is always the same as their surroundings.

Reptiles will hibernate if the temperature where they live gets too cold.



Dinosaurs were gigantic reptiles.

Reptiles have scaly thick skin. Their skin is waterproof and prevents their bodies from drying out. This is why they can live in dry places like deserts.



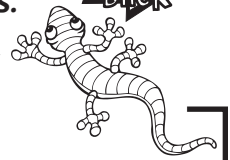
Reptiles live on land, in the water and even in trees.

Name: _____

Draw five different reptiles.

ON THE BACK

Reptiles



Research questions.

- List some of the reptiles that can be found in your local area.
- List reptiles that live on the land, in water and in trees.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Australia has _____ kinds of reptiles: Crocodilia (crocodiles), Squamata (lizards and snakes), and Chelonia (turtles and tortoises). All of these reptiles _____ in great numbers and great diversity. In _____ there are 680 different species. There are two _____ of crocodile, 18 species of turtles and 650 species of snakes and _____.

Out of the reptiles, the dragons have adapted _____ to survive in the _____ conditions of the outback. An unusual example is the Moloch, which has a low metabolic (energy burning) rate. It moves _____ slowly over the ground and _____ on ants. When it is thirsty it stands in some _____, and by using capillary action, the water is sucked up along the surface of its skin to its mouth.

1 three four five	2 disappear appear reappear	3 tootal tottal total	4 species spaces speeces	5 birds dogs lizards
6 grately greatly gratly	7 wet flooded dry	8 very simply hugely	9 feeds stands sits	10 paint sand water

Write about these topics.

- Write an adventure story about a scientist who incubates a dinosaur egg.
- Pretend that you are a harmless snake trapped in a backyard with everybody after you. Write about the experience.

Name: _____

Draw four crocodiles floating in a river. 

CROCODILES

S	O	R	J	Y	S	C	A	L	Y
R	C	E	U	H	E	F	U	F	X
E	N	S	G	S	C	F	S	E	M
M	E	K	K	R	R	T	Y	E	Q
M	S	G	G	E	H	I	A	D	G
I	T	K	W	V	D	T	S	H	N
W	Q	O	J	I	L	J	E	M	O
S	P	V	B	R	F	C	A	E	R
L	N	R	D	E	B	B	E	W	T
C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	S

Crocodiles are reptiles.

Crocodiles bask in the sun on the banks of rivers.

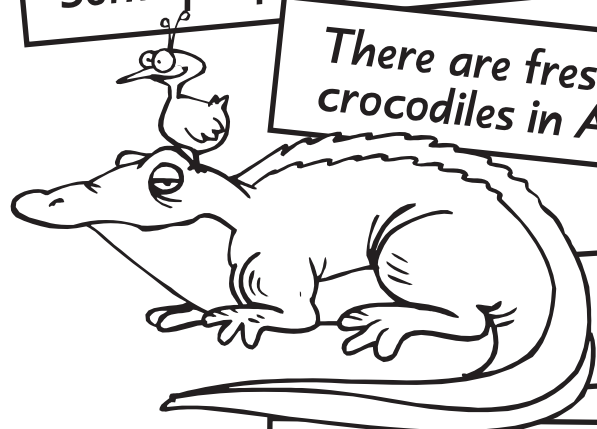
There are no alligators in Australia.



Crocodiles eat meat.

Some people run crocodile farms.

There are fresh-water and salt-water crocodiles in Australia.



Crocodile babies make squeaking sounds.

Crocodiles can grow to seven metres long.

Crocodiles lay up to 80 eggs in a nesting mound.

- crocodiles
- strong
- jaws
- teeth
- webbed
- scaly
- powerful
- swimmers
- rivers
- meat
- eggs
- nest
- hatch
- feed

Name: _____

Draw a crocodile eating breakfast.

ON THE BACK

Crocodiles



Research questions.

- List the differences between crocodiles and alligators.
- Why are there more crocodiles now than there were in the 1970's.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The estuarine crocodile is _____¹ from India to the western Pacific. In Australia it is found both in estuaries and upstream in large _____² rivers. It is a sea-going _____³ and can sometimes be found in the open ocean _____³ between islands.

Crocodiles _____⁴ mainly on small aquatic animals such as, _____⁵, crabs and water rats, but sometimes turn to larger prey such as cattle, _____⁶ or humans, which they seize and drown _____⁷ eating; their stomachs often contain large _____⁸ which act as ballast.

The estuarine crocodile can reach a length of 7 metres, and on land its usual _____⁹ amble can speed up to a fast run with the tail raised.

1 unknown found lost	2 costal coastle coastal	3 mammal insect reptile	4 travelling crawling walking	5 food feed eat
6 sheep tabby cats fish	7 mice horses ants	8 after never before	9 phone books buckets stones	10 lumbering delicate tiptoe

Write about these topics.

- Write a letter to the editor explaining that crocodiles have got a lot of bad press, and they are really misunderstood.
- Make up some crocodile jokes, cartoons or comics.
- Draw the plans for a machine to capture crocodiles.

Name: _____

Draw a frog in a pond. **ON THE BACK**

Frogs have webbed feet.

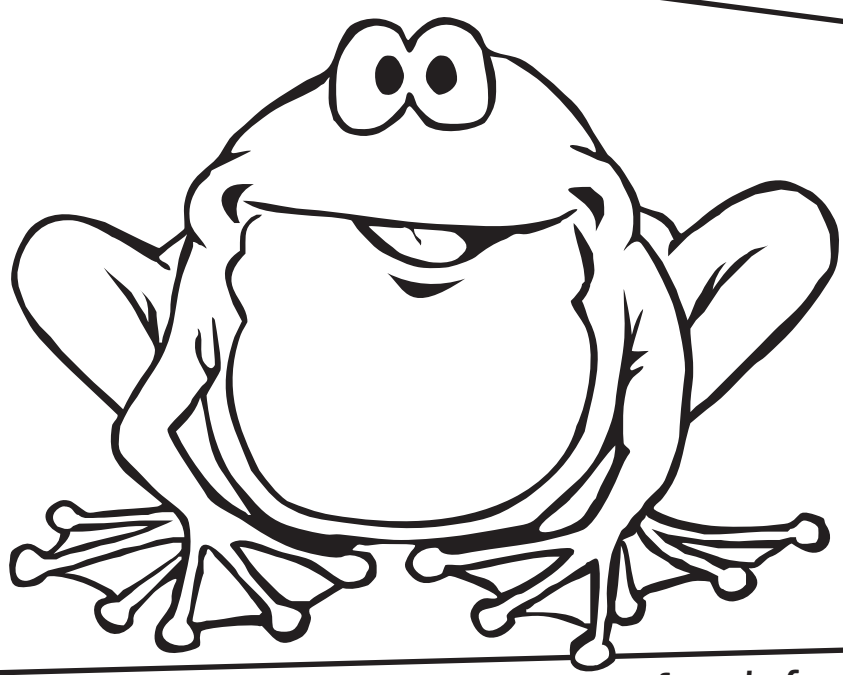
FROGS



Frogs have bulging eyes on the tops of their heads. They can look in all directions at once. They can spot their enemies very quickly.

R	H	S	W	A	M	P	S	I	N	U
G	R	E	E	N	D	N	J	W	J	N
H	U	L	I	K	E	B	O	Q	W	B
A	O	O	V	S	B	R	H	G	O	U
A	M	P	H	I	B	I	A	N	S	L
Z	X	D	P	G	E	X	T	I	D	L
P	X	A	O	I	W	S	C	K	A	F
R	O	T	D	L	N	G	H	A	O	R
V	K	N	S	L	W	G	U	O	T	O
R	E	E	D	S	K	E	E	R	C	G
Y	M	I	L	S	X	G	T	C	W	S

Frogs are amphibians. They spend their lives partly on land and partly in the water.



Male frogs croak loudly to attract female frogs.

Tadpoles have gills like fish. Grown-up frogs have lungs like us.

- amphibians
- tadpoles
- hopping
- croaking
- eggs
- swamp
- webbed
- wet
- green
- brown
- bullfrogs
- toads
- hatch
- gills
- reeds
- ponds
- creeks
- slimy

Name: _____

Draw the life cycle of a frog.

ON THE BACK

Frogs



Research questions.

- Find some tadpole facts for a mini-project.
- What are some of the problems caused in Australia by introduced species e.g. the cane toad?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Australia has over two hundred species of frogs, which include some of the world's most _____ specimens that have developed bizarre _____¹ to life in arid habitats.

Frogs are more often _____² than seen, for the mating 'croak' of the male is _____³ by an extendible throat pouch that acts as a resonating chamber⁴. Individual frog species can often be _____⁵ by their calls.

A very recently _____⁵ frog, the gastric-brooding frog, carries her _____⁶ in her own stomach for several weeks (during this time she eats no food). Another _____⁷ lays her eggs in _____⁸ brood-pouches on the back of the male.

Aborigines get _____⁹ from a water-holding frog that survives by burying itself _____¹⁰ deep underground.

1 usual unusual unread	2 adaptions edaptions adapions	3 seen green heard	4 soften amplified whispered	5 recognised hidden smelled
6 created exploded discovered	7 shopping eggs bacon	8 dog fly frog	9 spesial speshial special	10 water lemonade food

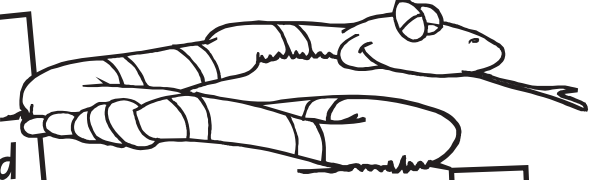
Write about these topics.

- Use the beginning letters in the word CROAKING to write an acrostic poem about a frog.
- Pretend that you are a frog and write a diary covering a week of your life.

Name: _____

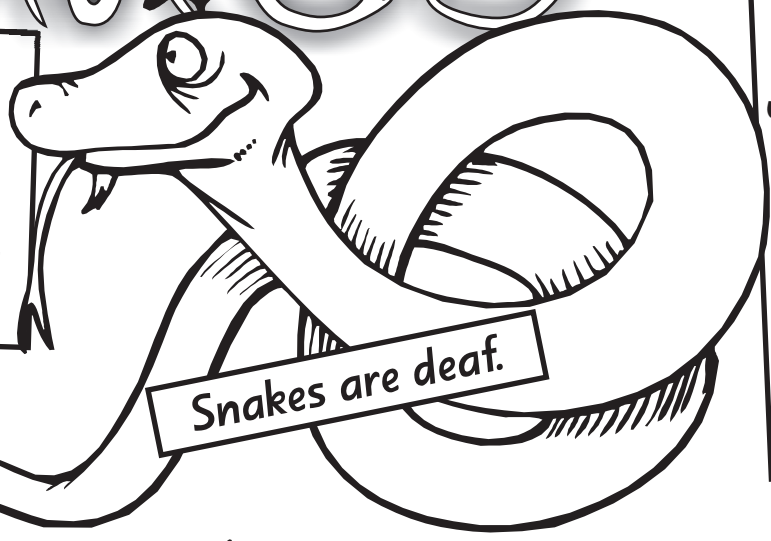
Draw a coiled-up snake. **ON THE BACK**

Snakes are cold-blooded reptiles. They have to heat themselves up so that they can move quickly and catch their dinner.



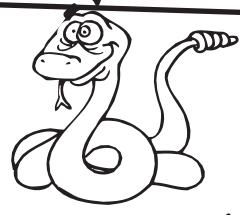
snakes

Snakes do not chew. They swallow mice and other small animals whole. They are very fond of the eggs of birds and other reptiles.



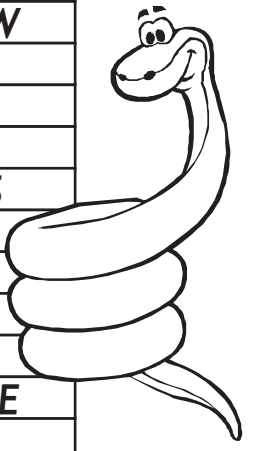
As snakes grow they shed their skins.

Snakes are deaf.



G P R E T T Y S H E D
 O A V P S S G L O N G
 P G F G W N J I A W O
 R Y G F A E D T I C N
 F E T F L B V H K W S
 P F W H L M L E O L W
 T O F A O B Y R N I A
 I R C V W N B Y H O J
 L K E L T T A R W C M
 F E K A B N U S E Y Q
 S D H A R M L E S S F

	LONG
	SLITHERY
	SCALY
	VENOM
	SHED
	FANGS
	SWALLOW
	EGGS
	BROWN
	BLACK
	REPTILES
	FORKED
	DEAF
	JAWS
	COIL
	SUNBAKE
	PRETTY
	HARMLESS
	PYTHON
	MOVE
	RATTLE



Name: _____

Draw a snake-charmer and a cobra.

ON THE BACK

Research questions.

Snakes



- Make a poster about the dangers of some Australian snakes.
- List the first-aid procedures for treating a snake bite.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Snakes can be regarded as highly specialized _____. Australia has about 160 species of snakes, some of which are the most venomous in the _____. In fact, Australia is the only continent in which the venomous _____ outnumber the non-venomous snakes.

Snakes are able to _____ their lower jaw from their skull. This enables them to _____ their prey whole, even when it is exceedingly _____.

They have no outer or middle ear structure, so snakes 'hear' only ground-transmitted _____ to which their inner ear is sensitive, and cannot detect airborne _____.

Snakes produce venom which is a complex _____ of proteins injected through hollow _____ into its prey.

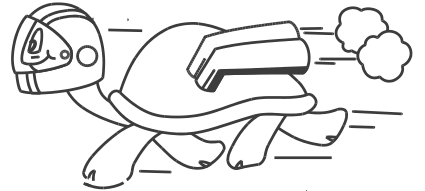
1 birds giraffes lizards	2 city world pond	3 lizards wombats snakes	4 disconnect discard dissolve	5 swallow chew bisect
6 small average large	7 vibrations smells tastes	8 smells sights sounds	9 bicycle mixture hello	10 toenails fangs nostrils

Write about these topics.

- Write an adventure story about a hiker alone in the wilderness who is bitten by a deadly snake.
- Write your own version of an Aboriginal legend that explains how the snake lost his limbs.

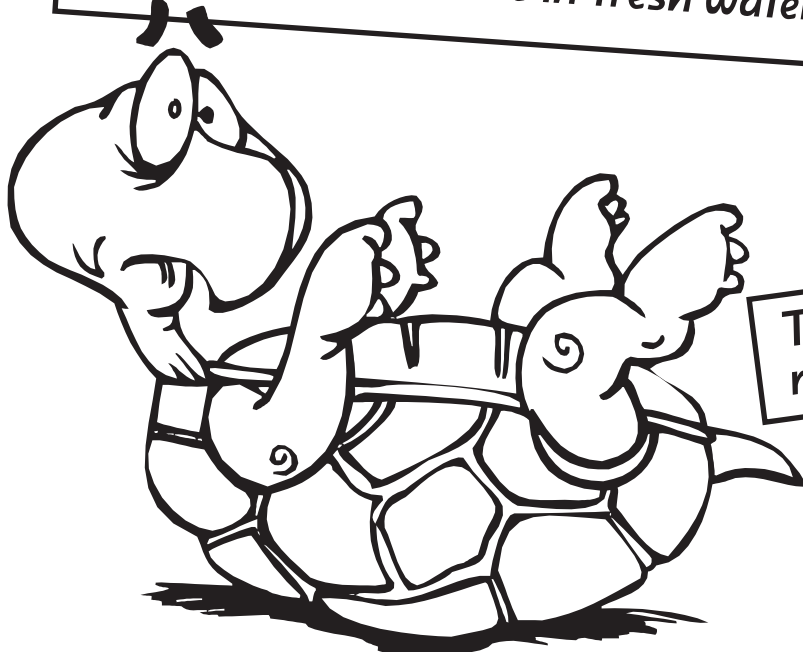
Name: _____

Draw some tortoises in a river.



Tortoise

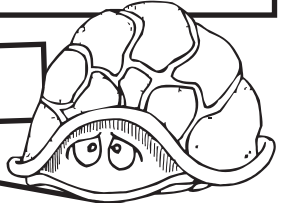
Tortoises spend most of their time on the land. They spend some time in fresh water like rivers.



Tortoises are reptiles.

tortoise
reptile
shell
eggs
stumpy
short
lumber
legs
tail
strong
hundred

Tortoises, in cool climates hibernate during the winter.



Y V H U N D R E D
 X Z S H E L L X
 T O R T O I S E J
 A X A Y T L E G S
 I M Y P G Y Z G T
 L Q E M X C G S R
 Y R L U M B E R O
 C N L T R O H S N
 I G K S H T I G G

Tortoises can live to be 100 years old.



Tortoises lay their eggs in holes near fresh water.

Tortoises have no teeth. Their jaws have a bony edge which is used for tearing food apart.

Name: _____

Draw a giant tortoise.



Research questions.

Tortoises



- What do tortoises eat?
- How do you care for a pet tortoise?
- List some differences between tortoises and turtles.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Tortoises have one of the _____¹ life spans of any _____, sometimes living longer than two hundred years. Tortoise hatchlings _____² for forty years before reaching full size.³

The shell of a giant tortoise is very light and _____⁴ and is easily damaged, despite the appearance of being rugged. There are two distinct _____⁵ of giant tortoise shells: Saddle back _____⁶ found on tortoises that eat higher vegetation, and Dome backed shells found on tortoises that eat _____⁷ on the ground.

While attempting to attract a mate, the male giant tortoise bellows _____⁸ and bobs his _____⁹.

Giant tortoises can now only be found on The Galapagos islands and the _____¹⁰ of Aldabra near Madagascar.

1 shortest tiniest longest	2 horse animal mammal	3 grow shrink flatten	4 fragile fragille fragial	5 kinds coins species
6 shells feet necks	7 habitation irritation vegetation	8 softly loudly quietly	9 head foot toenail	10 ireland eyeland island

Write about these topics.

- Create an aboriginal legend that explains how the tortoise got his shell.
- Write a tall tale from the outback about a tortoise that could travel at unheard of speeds.

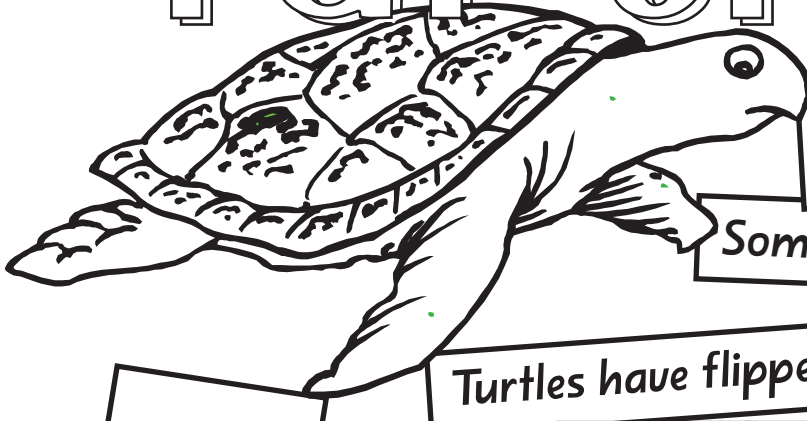
Name: _____

Draw some turtles swimming in the ocean.



Turtles

Turtles are reptiles.



Female turtles only come on land to lay their eggs.

Some turtles live in freshwater.

Turtles have flippers and tortoises have feet.

Turtles dig in the sand and lay about 100 eggs. The soil's heat hatches the eggs. The baby turtles then scramble to the sea.

turtles	E	A	S	G	G	E	T	H	I
ocean	F	E	D	H	D	S	M	A	S
flippers	L	L	H	U	E	M	E	N	I
webbed	I	I	A	T	A	L	D	A	W
paddles	P	T	T	U	R	T	L	E	S
sea	P	P	C	Q	L	D	B	C	B
rivers	E	E	H	J	M	B	P	O	A
crabs	R	R	I	V	E	R	S	W	R
shell	S	P	A	D	D	L	E	S	C
hatch									
eggs									
reptile									

Turtles can swim great distances and return to the beach where they were hatched.



Name: _____

Make up some turtle cartoons. **ON THE BACK**

Turtles



Research questions.

- Turtles are protected by their shells. What advantages and disadvantages does this cause?
- Make a mini-project about a marine turtle.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Marine turtles have _____¹ instead of webbed, clawed feet and spend most of their time at _____², coming ashore only to lay their _____³.

The largest species³ is the leathery turtle or luth, which may be as long as three _____⁴ and weigh as much as five hundred kilograms.

Female turtles _____⁵ to the shore to lay their eggs in _____⁶ dug in the sand with their hind flippers. This is when the _____⁷ are in the most danger. Numbers in many species have _____⁸ because their nesting sites are not safe from human predation and they are caught both for their meat and their _____⁹. However, most Australian populations of turtles are able to _____¹⁰ successfully.

1 flappers floppers flippers	2 sea ground air	3 vegetables bacon eggs	4 meaters meters metres	5 advance redo return
6 hills chambers pyramids	7 fish birds turtles	8 declined risen inclined	9 eggs meat nests	10 talk dance breed

Write about these topics.

- Write a story about a turtle finding its way back to the beach where it was born and laying its eggs.
- Make two lists of words: one that describes a turtle in the water, and another that describes a turtle on land.

Name: _____

Draw a school of your favourite fish.

ON THE BACK



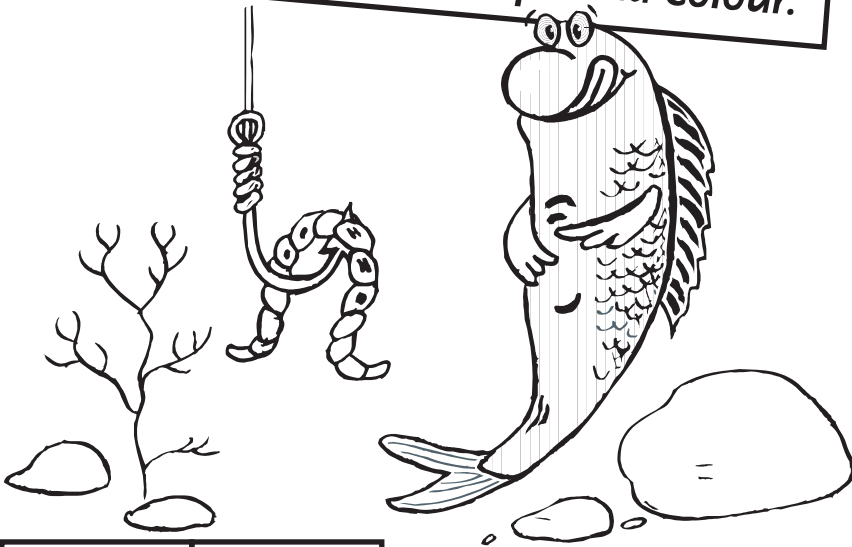
Fish have eyes, but do not have any eyelids. This means that fish have to sleep with their eyes open.

There are more than 20 000 species of fish in the world.



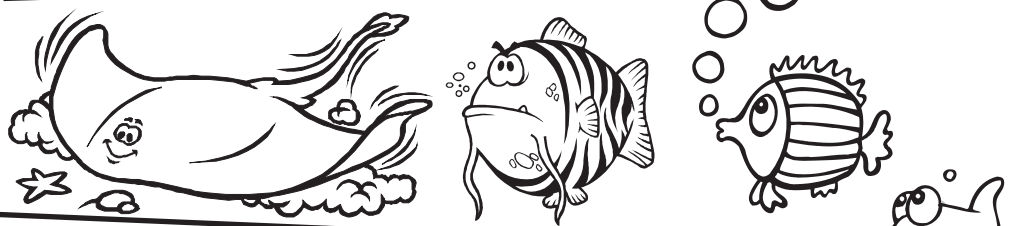
All fish are cold-blooded and use gills instead of lungs for breathing oxygen.

The coral reefs have many fish that are different in size, shape and colour.



GILLS	TROUT
FISH	COD
EGGS	SALMON
OXYGEN	FRESH
SCALES	SALT
SIZES	MARINE
SPAWN	GARFISH
HERRING	RAYS

Australia's freshwater rivers contain many introduced species of fish e.g. carp, rainbow trout, redfin, top-minnow and the snake-head.



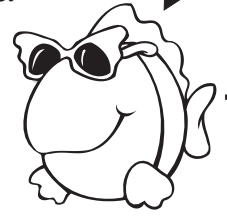
One million Australians go fishing every year.

Name: _____

Find and write five fish facts.

ON THE BACK

Fish



Research questions.

- Make a poster of fish features.
- How can we protect our fish from over-fishing.
- Can salt-water fish enter freshwater rivers?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Primitive fishes date back about 550 million _____ ago. These jawless fishes lived relatively _____ over the following 100 million years

Bony fishes inhabit almost every _____ of water. They are found in tropical, temperate, and polar seas. Bony fishes exist in fresh _____, seawater, and brackish environments. Some _____ of bony fishes live as deep as eleven kilometres in the oceans. Other species inhabit lakes as high as five _____ above sea level.

There are more species of _____ fishes in the world than all other vertebrates combined. Some species of fish living in freshwater _____ have been underground so long they've developed without _____. These fish use other senses to navigate and _____ food.

1 days months years	2 tall short unchanged	3 body leg arm	4 sand water mud	5 species species spieces
6 kilometers kilametres kilometres	7 smooth bony rough	8 trees oceans caves	9 ears noses eyes	10 lose find keep

Write about these topics.

- Write the arguments for and against introducing new fish species into Australian waters.
- Write a tall tale about fishing. You catch a giant fish but after hours of struggling, it gets away. Nobody believes you.

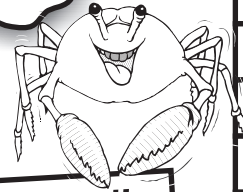
Name: _____

Draw a big crab crawling on the ocean bottom.



crabs

Crabs have eyes on the end of stalks.



crabs
lobsters
shell
jointed
ten
sideways
water
salt
decapods
nippers
stalks
eat
sand
mud

Crabs walk sideways.

Crabs are scavengers and eat anything they can find.

Crabs are 'decapods'.
[From the Greek words deca=ten and pod=feet].

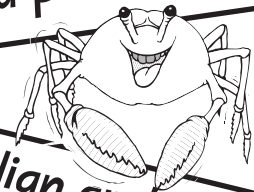
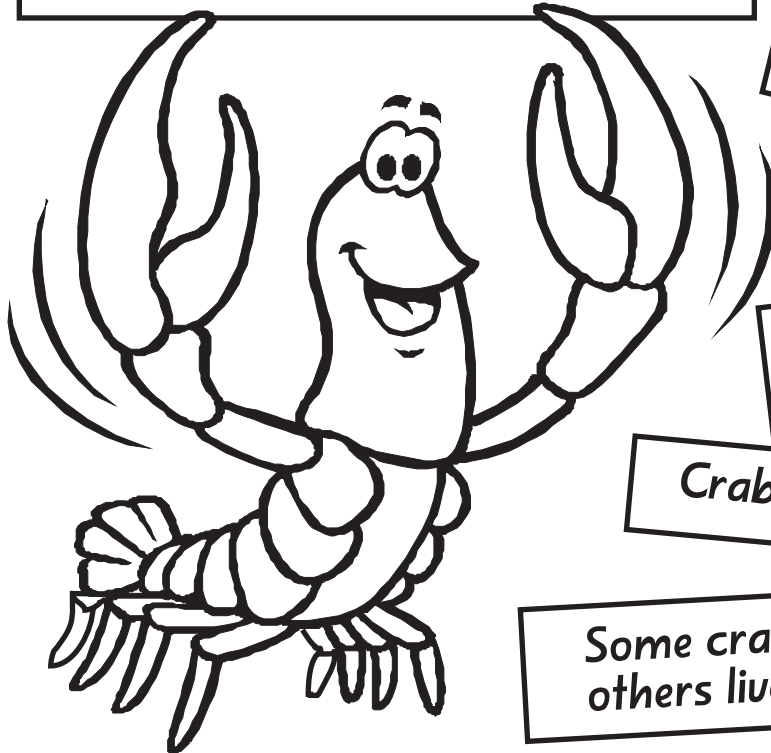
Some Australian crabs are 6mm across their shells while others can be 35 cm across.

Some crabs bury themselves deep in mud or sand.

Crabs shells give them protection.

Some crabs live in salt water others live in fresh water.

S Y A W E D I S G
 D Y N I P P E R S
 O U V T W W N E T
 P Y M Y R G K T L
 A U R L L E H S A
 C X W E C R A B S
 E D D E T N I O J
 D N A S E A T L G
 S T A L K S W X T

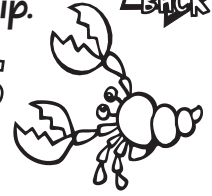


Name: _____

Draw a crab and a sunken ship.

ON THE BACK

Crabs



Research questions.

- What are 'spider crabs'?
- Research some Australian crabs like the giant Tasmanian crab. Select one crab for a mini-project.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Crabs are related to _____¹ and shrimps. However, they have evolved so that they can walk or run _____², as well as _____ and swim.

Their body³ is covered by a chitinous _____ called a carapace. A crab's abdomen has become fairly reduced and is tucked under the _____. A crab's segmented body has several pairs of appendages,⁵ of which usually five _____⁶ serve as walking legs and two as sensory antennae.

They can live in more _____⁷ areas because of their ability to _____⁸ well to the changing environment.

Crabs can _____⁹ fairly well with their compound eyes. Their senses of smell and taste are also advanced which helps them to find _____¹⁰ easier.

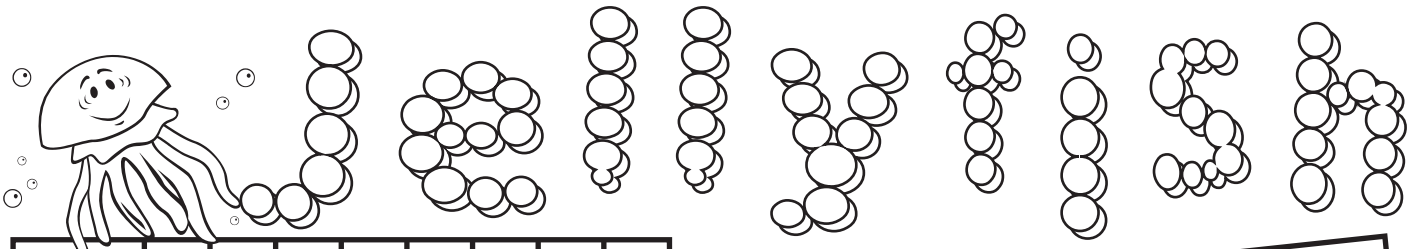
1 birds mammals lobsters	2 upside-down sideways over	3 burrow barrow borrow	4 shell canvas plastic	5 beak tail body
6 pears pares pairs	7 extream extreem extreme	8 adapt flexible display	9 smell hear see	10 treasure rocks food

Write about these topics.

- Write a 'sideways' poem about crabs.
- Write a story about the hermit crab who lost his shell and couldn't find another one. What could he use?
- Draw some crab cartoons or make up some crab jokes.

Name: _____

Draw a box jellyfish. **ON THE BACK**



S	I	S	Y	L	A	R	A	P	X
E	J	E	L	L	Y	F	I	S	H
S	N	L	D	D	S	V	C	Y	Y
E	W	C	A	I	T	N	I	A	P
V	O	A	E	A	I	E	U	L	B
E	R	T	D	T	N	T	Z	E	H
R	B	N	S	S	G	T	L	T	P
E	O	E	Z	R	E	L	A	Z	I
Q	X	T	O	I	R	E	D	W	N
B	I	H	O	F	D	X	F	M	K

Up to forty people have been killed by the Box-Jellyfish in the northern waters of Australia.



The Indo-Pacific Box Jellyfish is claimed to be the most venomous marine animal known.

If you are stung by a jellyfish use some vinegar for first-aid.

Bluebottles and other jellyfish are often found in swarms.

There is no antivenene for most jellyfish stings.

A sting from a box jellyfish can sometimes cause death to occur within 2 to 3 minutes.

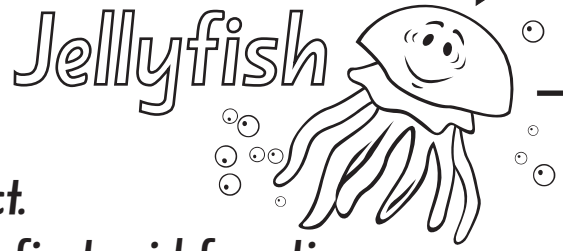


JELLYFISH	DEATH	FIRST AID	PINK
DEADLY	SEVERE	NETTLE	BLUE
STINGS	BOX	STINGER	BROWN
TENTACLES	BELL	PAIN	PARALYSIS

Box Jellyfish are pale blue and transparent. They are difficult to see, even in clear ocean waters they are almost invisible.

Name: _____

Draw some bluebottles. **ON THE BACK**



Research questions.

- List some different jellyfish and select one of them for a mini-project.
- Make a poster showing appropriate first-aid for stings.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The Box Jellyfish has the shape of a bell or cube with four distinct sides (measuring up to 20 _____¹ along each side), as in a box. Each _____² may contain up to as many as fifteen _____³ each three metres in _____⁴. To move, the Box Jellyfish contracts with a jet-like motion, shooting itself along at _____⁵ of up to four knots. The creature can take evasive _____⁶ or move towards its prey.

Box Jellyfish prey on small crustaceans and small _____⁷.

The Box Jellyfish uses its tentacles to kill its prey. If a swimmer makes _____⁸ with the Box Jellyfish's tentacles, death may result. The _____⁹ has been described as so excruciating that the victim will probably go into shock and drown, even before the full _____¹⁰ of the venom takes place.

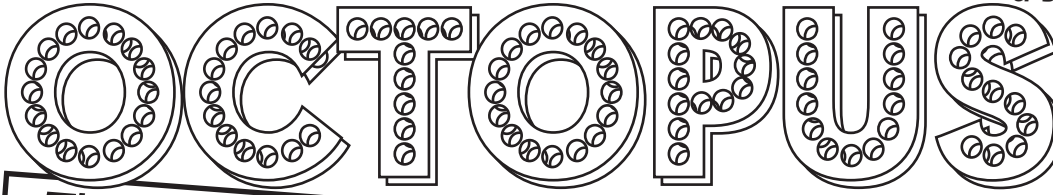
1 sentimeters centimeters centimetres	2 laneway corner street	3 tentacles tentackels tentakels	4 height length width	5 heights times speeds
6 action reaction inaction	7 fish chips boats	8 blue-tack contact intact	9 pane pain paen	10 affect infect effect

Write about these topics.

- Write about a swimmer who gets stung by a deadly Box Jellyfish.
- Write a list of adjectives that could describe a jellyfish.
- Write about a giant, mutant jellyfish that can live on land.

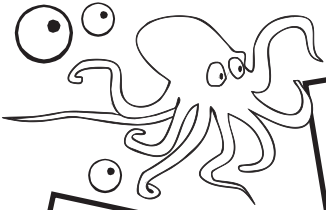
Name: _____

Draw an octopus wrapped around **ON THE BACK** a sunken ship.



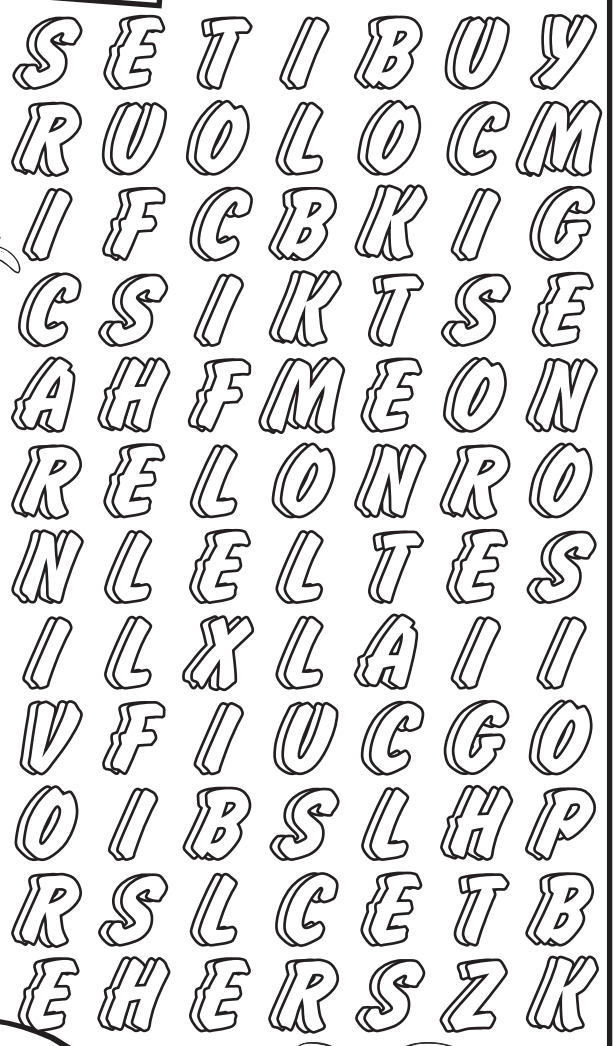
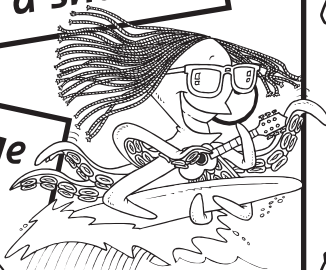
It can protect itself by squirting out a cloud of inky liquid.

The octopus has eight long arms or tentacles that are very flexible. Each tentacle has rows of suckers along it, which enable the octopus to cling very tightly to anything it catches.



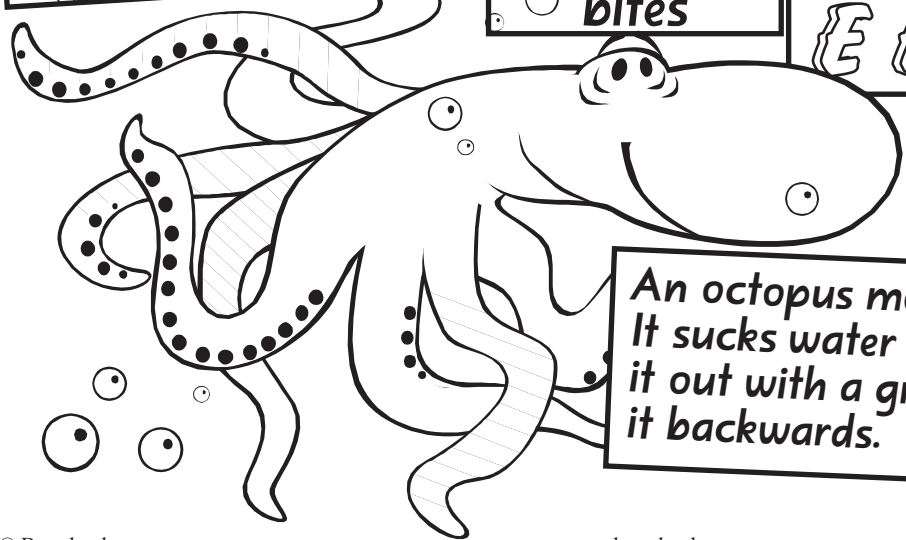
An octopus is a marine mollusc without a shell.

An octopus can change colour to blend in with its surroundings.

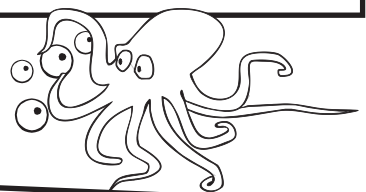


An octopus has strong jaws which can give a painful bite. It can inject poison when it bites.

- carnivore
- tentacles
- suckers
- poison
- colour
- shellfish
- flexible
- mollusc
- eight
- bites



An octopus moves by jet propulsion. It sucks water into its body and forces it out with a great force that pushes it backwards.



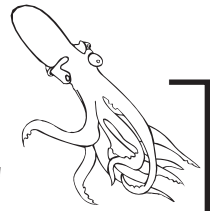
Name: _____

Draw some octopus cartoons.



Research questions.

Octopuses



- Make a poster of octopus features.
- What should you do if you are bitten by a blue-ringed octopus?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Octopuses have developed from _____¹, they have a parrot-like _____² and can give a painfully venomous bite. Some octopuses prey on other molluscs by drilling a hole through their shells and injecting a _____³ venom.

The blue-ringed octopus is often _____⁴ in temperate Australian rock pools. Its poison has caused _____⁵ human deaths and there is no known _____⁶.

Octopuses have the most complex brain of the _____⁷ (animals without backbones). They have long term and short-term _____⁸ as do vertebrates. Octopuses learn to solve _____⁹ by trial-and-error and experience. Once the problem is _____¹⁰, octopuses remember and are able to solve it and _____¹¹ problems repeatedly.

1 humans molluscs deer	2 beek beke beak	3 poisonous happy carefree	4 heard thinking seen	5 antidot entidote antidote
6 vertebrates invertebrates mammals	7 memorys memories memaries	8 algorithms mentals problems	9 solved answered remembered	10 similar simliar samelar

Write about these topics.

- Write about a giant octopus which rises from the ocean and drags ships down to the sea bed.
- Write a funny story about an octopus and a typewriter.
- Write a twisting, turning octopus poem.

Name: _____

Draw a seahorse nearly hidden by seaweed. **ON THE BACK**

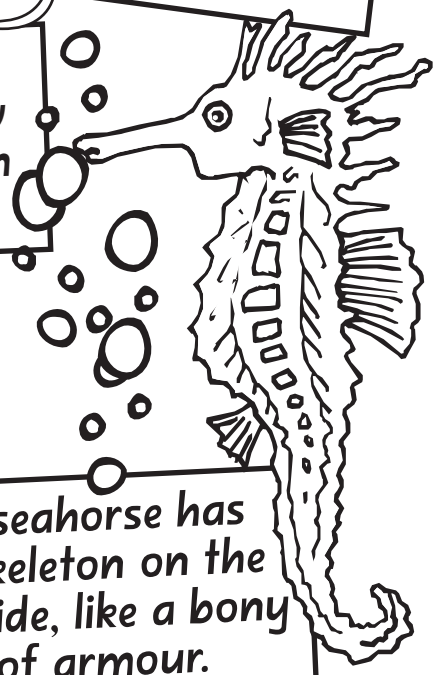
Seahorse

The seahorse is a fish.

The seahorse has a long, flexible tail. He uses this to curl around seaweed in warm, shallow waters (where he usually lives). This hides him from crabs which are his main enemies.

The seahorse has two bulging eyes which can move and see in different directions at once.

The seahorse has its skeleton on the outside, like a bony suit of armour.



seahorse	swims	tail
seaweed	eyes	snout
hidden	crabs	eggs
babies	skeleton	pouch

Word search grid:

S B A R C T N
 C M T U D F O
 T A I L M E T
 S U L W G H E
 E V O G S C L
 A H S N P U E
 H I E K S O K
 O D I E U P S
 R D B X Y I N
 S E A W E E D
 E N B Q R E S



The leafy seahorse has growths all over his body that look like seaweed. This seahorse is only found in Australia.

Name: _____

Find five seahorse facts.

ON THE BACK

Seahorses



Research questions.

- Make a poster of seahorse features.
- Make a list of any threats to the seahorse.
- What do seahorses eat?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Seahorses are well camouflaged among the _____¹ in which they make their homes. A seahorse often moors itself in the _____² by curling its tail around sea grasses and coral branches. The seahorse's small _____³, located at the end of its narrow tube-like snout, sucks up _____⁴ plankton and fish larvae.

Seahorses _____⁵ upright. Fins on the sides and a small dorsal fin on the back of a seahorse's _____⁶ wave rapidly to move the seahorse through the _____⁷.

A female seahorse deposits 100 or more _____⁸ into the pouch on the male's abdomen. The embryos develop within the male's _____⁹ (incubation may last two to six weeks). After the embryos have developed, the male gives birth to tiny seahorses, some as small as one _____¹⁰ long.

1 seaweed snails rocks	2 air water ground	3 foot hand mouth	4 tiny gigantic huge	5 swim walk crawl
6 pouch eyes body	7 waves water sand	8 eggs embryos fish	9 stomach pouch mouth	10 centimeter centameter centimetre

Write about these topics.

- Use the beginning letters in the word **SEAHORSE** to write an acrostic poem about the animal.
- Make up some seahorse jokes, cartoons or comics.
- Pretend that you are a seahorse and write a story.

Name: _____

Draw a shark
cruising through
the ocean. **ON THE
BACK**

SHARKS

Sharks select weak, ill, injured, or dying prey because it is easier to catch.

A shark has five different kinds of fins, which lift, stabilize, and propel the shark.

Sharks are very efficient swimmers, using little energy to swim about.

Sharks eat almost anything: fishes, crustaceans, molluscs, marine mammals, and other sharks.



Some coastal sharks are camouflaged to blend in with the ocean bottom.

A T T A C K E C R
 J E W O E N H A S
 A E A S I L A R W
 W T N R K Q R T I
 S H A R K S M I M
 H M N V A C L L M
 A F I E R C E A E
 R H G I L L S G R
 P D I F I N S E S

A shark's entire skeleton is made of cartilage -- not bone. Your nose is made of cartilage too!

SWARKS	PIERCE	GILLS
TEETH	ATTACK	FINS
JAWS	CARTILAGE	WHAINE
WARRLESS	SWIMMERS	SWAMP

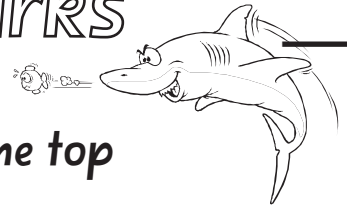
Only 32 species of sharks have ever attacked people. There are more than 350 species of sharks.

Name: _____

Find and write five shark facts.



Sharks



Research questions.

- Make a poster of shark features.
- Why are most sharks differently coloured on the top and bottom?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Sharks have a very _____¹ shape. This shape is good for swimming and helps keep the shark _____² or afloat. A shark's tail or caudal fin _____³ them forward and downward. The side or pectoral _____³ fins provide lift much like the wings of an _____⁴. Also, because sharks don't have any _____⁴ they are very light in the water.

Over the years, people have used sharks for _____⁵, medicines, and vitamins; shark teeth for weapons and jewellery;⁶ and shark skin for _____⁷. But today some shark populations are on the brink of _____⁷. Why?

Shark meat is a popular food, and _____⁸ of sharks are caught by accident, snagged in _____⁹ set out to catch other kinds of fish.¹⁰

1 round bumpy streamlined	2 buoyant bouyant boyant	3 moves smooths stops	4 boat car aeroplane	5 teeth bones feet
6 food playing radio	7 toilet paper newspaper sandpaper	8 extinction eruption extrusion	9 toushunds thuosands thousands	10 buckets nets tubes

Write about these topics.

- Write a newspaper report of a horrific shark attack at a beach.
- Write a letter to the editor from a shark complaining that a few bad apples spoil it for everybody. Most sharks are nice.
- Sharks - An endangered species.

Name: _____

Draw a bird sitting in a nest in a big tree.

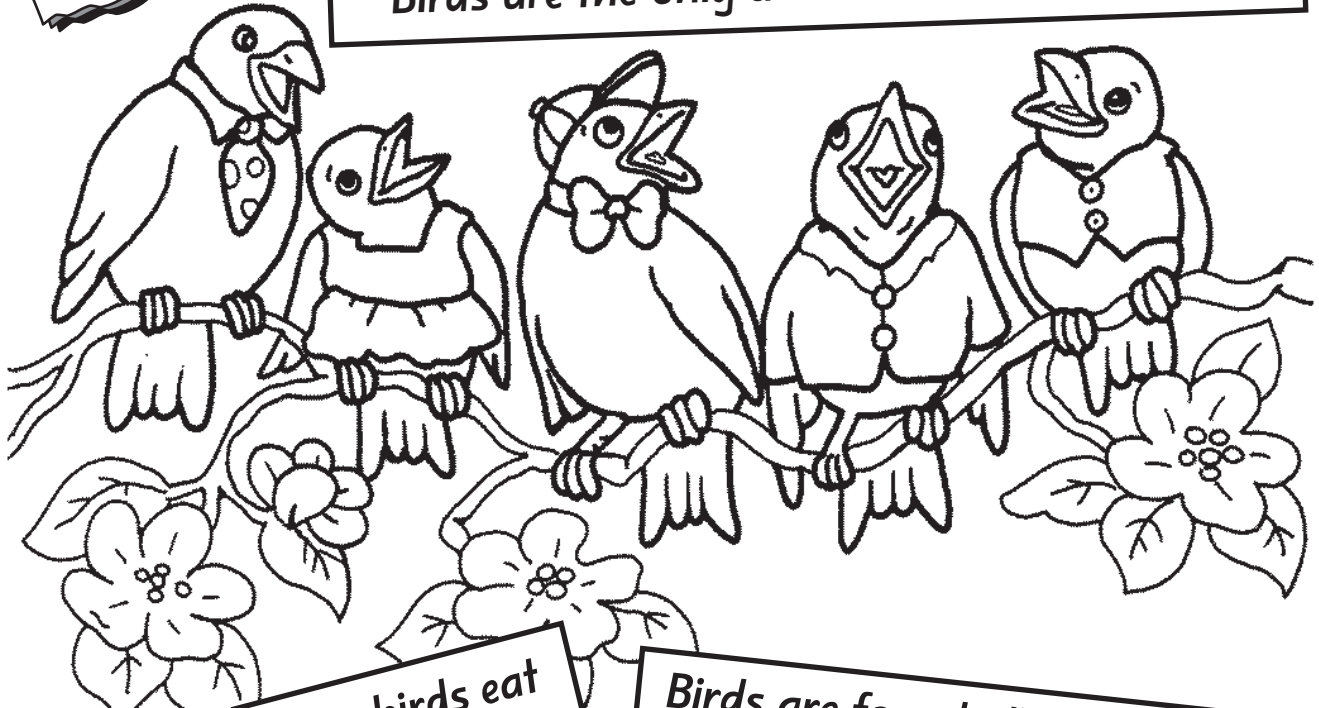
ON THE BACK

BIRDS

Some birds like the emu, ostrich, cassowary, penguin and kiwi cannot fly.

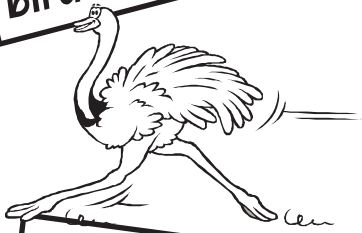


Birds are the only animals that have feathers.



birds
nest
tree
feathers
tails
flying
eggs
emu
sing
kookaburra
cockatoo
galah
sparrow
penguin
eagle
budgie

Some birds eat seeds, plants or insects. Other birds eat meat.



Birds have an oil sack near their tails. They rub this on their feathers to make themselves waterproof.

Birds are found all over the world.

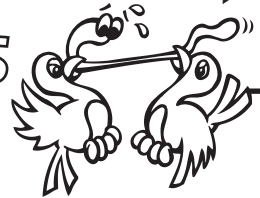
W	T	P	R	Y	T	A	A	H	K
B	I	R	D	S	T	D	G	W	O
C	U	M	E	R	F	G	B	O	O
O	N	N	Y	E	L	A	S	R	K
C	B	I	W	H	Y	L	G	R	A
K	U	U	E	T	I	A	G	A	B
A	D	G	K	A	N	H	E	P	U
T	G	N	T	E	G	N	I	S	R
O	I	E	Z	F	Z	L	R	H	R
O	E	P	Q	O	L	T	E	D	A

Name: _____

How do birds help our environment?



Birds



Research questions.

- List some Australian birds that migrate.
- Who was John Gould? What did he do?
- Collect some facts and draw your favourite Australian bird.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

There is a distinctive Australian bird population. Many groups have _____¹ to the Australian environment by, for example, _____² in termite mounds or _____³ in the ground to provide _____⁴ from winter extremes.

A few species, including the lyrebird, breed in _____⁵ rather than spring or summer.

We have some curiosities among our birds: the _____⁶ emu and the _____⁷ swan. We also have some _____⁸ noted for their singular _____⁹ - ranging from the loud laugh of the kookaburra to the ringing _____¹⁰ of the bellbird and the brilliant mimicry of the lyrebird.

Many unusual species, such as magpies, birds of paradise, bower-birds and the speckled drongo are also found in New Guinea.

1 edapted adepted adapted	2 resting nesting standing	3 hols wholes holes	4 protection detection infection	5 winter spring summer
6 soaring tiny flightless	7 green red black	8 dogs birds cats	9 calls noses hobbies	10 bones tones telephones

Write about these topics.

- Write about a day in the life of an Australian bird like the magpie, emu, kookaburra or bellbird. What would your life be like?
- Write a beautiful poem about the Australian bush and birds.

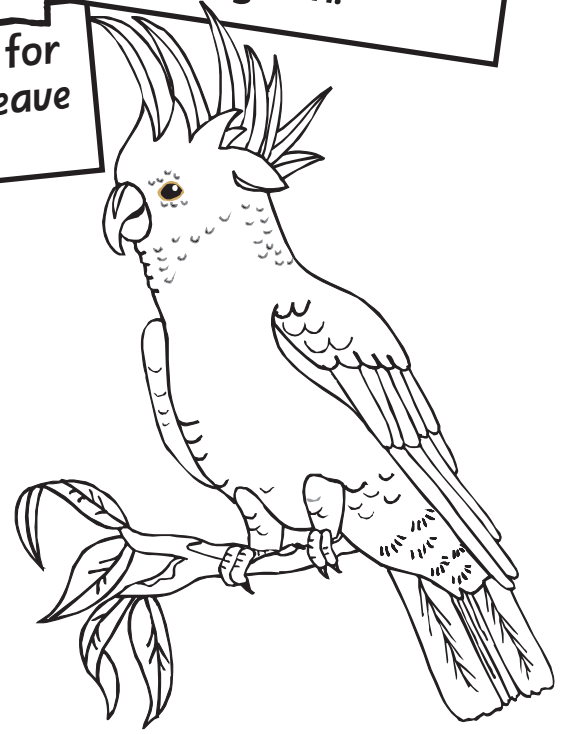
Name: _____

Draw a cockatoo in its nest. **ON THE BACK**

C O C K A T O O

Cockatoos come in shades of all colours except green.

Cockatoos incubate their eggs for four weeks. The young birds leave the nest after eleven weeks.



S S X C O C K A T O O S
 B I L L S B H P P S R M
 R Z S W A L C G A L A H
 I Z S T E E K I R O L T
 G V T R E E S T R O N G
 H N Y N D C O L O U R A
 T P A R A K E E T S E T
 O R O S E L L A S P M F

They eat berries, fruits, nuts, flowers, buds, roots, insects and larvae.

Male birds have a dark brown iris in their eyes, while female irises are a reddish brown.

Cockatoos grow to be about 45 centimetres long. Overseas a cheap cockatoo will cost about \$2 000.



cockatoos	bright	rosellas	bills
galah	colour	lorikeets	claws
parrots	trees	parakeets	strong

Cockatoos usually breed high up in hollows of large trees near water, but there's a group which raises their young in hollows of the steep banks of the Murray River.

Name: _____

Write five parrot facts. **ON THE BACK**

Cockatoos



Research questions.

- How many types of cockatoo can you name?
- Research one species of Australian parrot for a mini-project.
- Why do people try to smuggle Australian parrots?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

There are about fifty species of _____¹ in Australia. This includes rosellas, lorikeets, _____² and parakeets. These birds are found in _____³ of the different parts of the country, from rainforest to semi-desert. They are _____⁴ brightly coloured and have strong, hooked _____⁵ and claws with a firm grip. Australian parrots have two _____⁶ in front of their foot and one toe behind. Cockatoos _____⁷ two to four white eggs.

The smuggling of Australian parrots (both _____⁸ and common species) is a _____⁹ problem. They are in great demand by overseas collectors and _____¹⁰ are frequently caught trying to smuggle cases of drugged birds out of the country.

1 parots parrots parotts	2 cockatoos cockatwos cokatoos	3 none little all	4 never often seldom	5 eyes legs bills
6 ears fingers toes	7 lay play clay	8 common ordinary rare	9 small major average	10 people cockatoos suitcases

Write about these topics.

- Write about a cockatoo who is captured and smuggled overseas.
- Write about the discovery of a new green cockatoo.
- Do you think that any birds should be kept as pets?
Write some for and against facts.

Name: _____

Draw a male emu **ON THE BACK** sitting on the eggs.

- emu
- largest
- brown
- feathers
- nest
- chicks
- eggs
- oil
- fast
- birds
- food
- male
- neck

EMU

Emus cannot fly.

The male emu makes a nest, guards and hatches the eggs.

Emus have powerful legs with three toes.

Emus eat plants and pests like caterpillars and grasshoppers.

Emus can weigh 55 kg and run 50 k/p/h.



Each emu egg weighs 0.5 kg.

S	N	F	E	G	G	S	T	W
A	M	E	M	Z	K	Q	N	U
X	S	A	C	C	Z	T	B	R
V	L	T	I	K	S	L	I	I
E	Z	H	U	E	M	U	R	F
P	C	E	G	F	O	O	D	R
O	B	R	O	W	N	E	S	T
F	A	S	T	U	O	D	I	Y
L	I	O	W	G	I	K	K	B

Name: _____

Draw some emu cartoons.

ON THE BACK

Research questions.

Emus



- If emus are farmed, what products can be obtained from them?
- List the similarities between the ostrich and the emu.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The only bird in the world that is _____¹ than the emu is the ostrich. The emu can _____² to be one and a half _____³ tall and weigh as much as fifty-five kilograms. The flesh on an emu's neck is bluish, its bill is short and black, and its legs are _____⁴, with large, three-toed feet. The emu is capable of _____⁵ at speeds of up to forty-eight kilometres an hour.

The male emu _____⁶ a nest of trampled twigs and leaves, and it is he who _____⁷ the eggs, stretching his long neck along the _____⁸ to escape detection if danger is sensed. There may be seven to ten greenish-black eggs, each _____⁹ about half a kilogram. The chicks hatch after two months incubation and have brown and white _____¹⁰ along their sides.

1 smaller bigger lighter	2 grow grew groan	3 meters meaters metres	4 weak fat powerful	5 running skipping sliding
6 buys steals makes	7 cools incubates engraves	8 tree chair ground	9 weighing coloured squeezed	10 feet bills stripes

Write about these topics.

- Write a funny story about an emu that could fly.
- Create some labels for emu oil.
- Write your own aboriginal legend to explain why the male emu is the one to incubate and tend to the eggs.

Name: _____

Draw a kookaburra **ON THE BACK** sitting on a branch looking for dinner.

Kookaburra

Kookaburras eat chicks, insects, worms, frogs and snails, small snakes, lizards and yabbies. They bash small snakes against trees.

They nest in tree hollows as well as termite mounds and in urban areas, holes in walls are also used.

The kookaburra is the world's largest kingfisher bird.

KINGFISHER	BROWN	REPTILES
KOOKABURRA	PERCH	WINGS
INSECTS	BRANCH	BEAKS
SNAKES	TREES	SWOOP
BEAT	SIGHT	DNE

P	S	K	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	E	R
E	W	K	B	R	A	N	C	H	C	V	P
R	O	N	A	O	S	E	E	R	T	I	E
C	O	N	S	E	K	A	N	S	O	D	H
H	P	V	C	I	B	R	O	W	N	X	Y
V	S	T	A	E	B	S	I	G	H	T	F
A	S	K	O	O	K	A	B	U	R	R	A
R	E	P	T	I	L	E	S	G	N	I	W

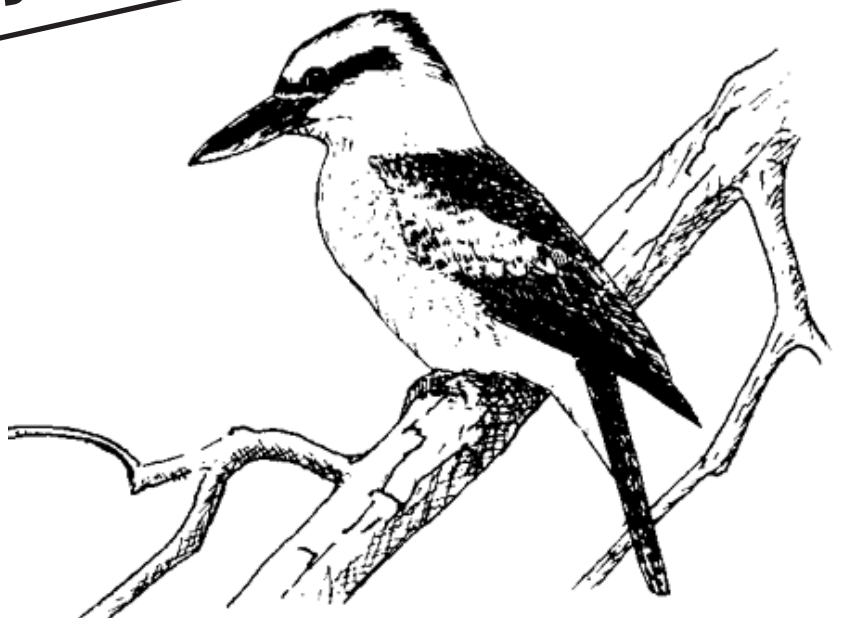
Excellent eyesight allows Kookaburras to spot movement from long distances.

Kookaburras are usually seen perched high in trees or on tall poles, watching for prey.

Kookaburras feed on insects and worms, swooping down on small water animals such as frogs, reptiles and other small vertebrate animals.

It has a powerful beak and neck.

Adult birds weigh 350 grams and their colour is brown.

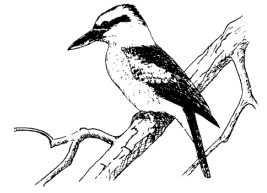


Name: _____

Draw a kookaburra
beating a snake.

ON THE
BACK

Kookaburras



Research questions.

- Find ten kookaburra facts.
- Are kookaburras a protected species?
- What are the characteristics of a kingfisher?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Kookaburras live only in _____ and are found in hot places. They live in _____¹ high up in trees. Great brown kingfishers live near the South West coast².

The laughing call, which is made at _____ and dusk, indicates ownership of territory, and one group will often _____³ another. With a _____⁴ of calls they can signal each other to come to a source of _____⁵ or to rally for the defence of a communal territory. _____⁶ and females look alike.⁷

Kookaburra pairs mate for life, laying 2 or 3 white eggs in a hole in a _____ trunk. Unmated birds _____⁸ the pair feed the chicks.⁹ The breeding rate is slow because many birds do not _____¹⁰ at all, but each bird can live up to 25 years.

1 Austria New Guinea Australia	2 wholes holes holles	3 dawn sunset dusk	4 ring answer reply	5 boredom collect variety
6 food trees radio	7 Females Snakes Males	8 tree log branch	9 work help dive	10 eat swoop breed

Write about these topics.

- Write your own aboriginal legend about how the kookaburra got his laugh.
- Write some of the jokes that made the kookaburra laugh so hard.

Name: _____

Draw a male lyrebird. **ON THE BACK**

LYREBIRD

B F E A T H E R S F
 R A I N F O R E S T
 E V S D M O U N D S
 P G G P K i P P U E
 U K O E L A M A J N
 S F L Y R E B i R D
 T W i G S D A N C E
 E G A M U L P V A T
 L i T T E R S C E U
 D i S P L A Y H P S

The female Lyrebird lays one egg the size of a large chicken's egg, hatching it over six weeks.

The Lyrebird is on the Australian 10 cent coin.

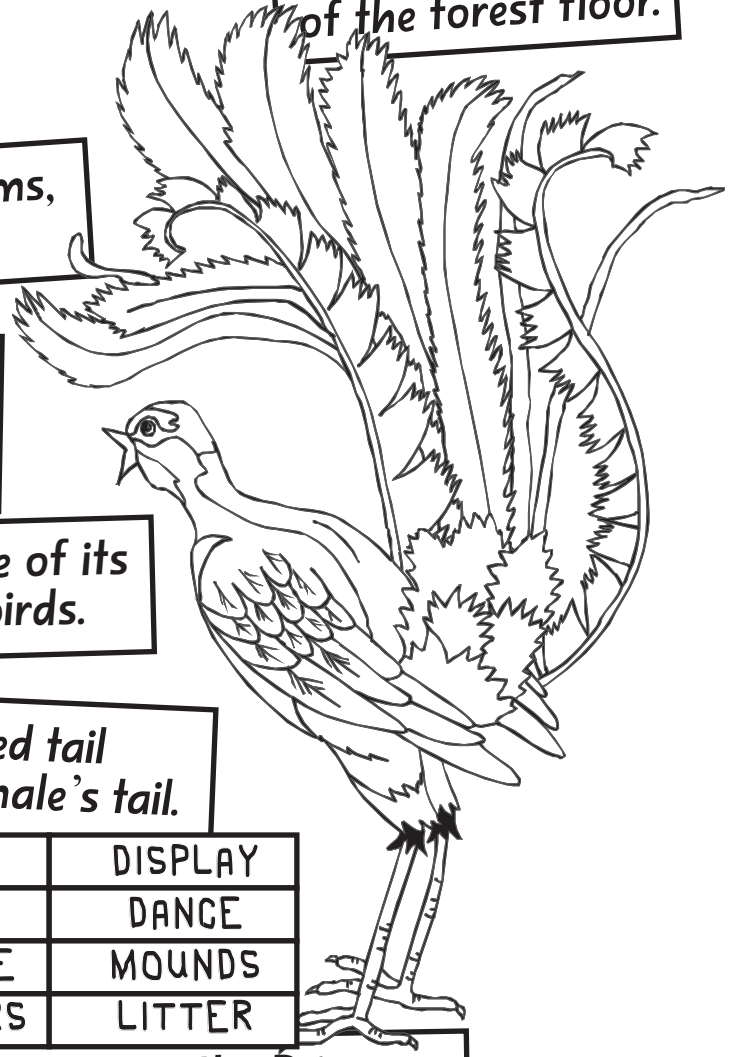
Lyrebirds feed on small animals living in the litter of the forest floor.

Lyrebirds eat spiders, beetles, worms, centipedes, grubs and land crabs.

The tail can grow up to 30 to 76 cm long. It also has two black feathers that are sort of like wire.

The Lyrebird has several calls, some of its own and some copied from other birds.

The male Lyrebird has a fan shaped tail which is much longer than the female's tail.



LYREBIRD	MIMIC	NEST	DISPLAY
RAINFOREST	LEAVES	MALE	DANCE
SUPERB	TWIGS	PLUMAGE	MOUNDS
TAIL	LOGS	FEATHERS	LITTER

There are two types of Lyrebird. One type is the Prince Albert's Lyrebird and another type is the Superb Lyrebird.

Name: _____

Draw the musical instrument called a lyre.

ON THE BACK

Lyrebirds



Research questions.

- List any Australian animals that have been used on our coins, past and present.
- On a map of Australia mark where lyrebirds can be found.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The lyrebird has seven _____. Some voices are its natural calls and some voices are _____ from other birds. Such is the ability of the lyrebird to mimic, that it has been known to produce sounds _____ as chainsaws, mill _____, axe blows and cross-cut saws.

Scientists in Tasmania are taking this _____ step further: they consider the repertoire of the lyrebird to be a historical recording of more ancient bird and _____ life long since past in the _____.

Young birds learn their mimicry from _____ elders. The songs and mimicry of individual birds in a group are quite _____ and this could hold the key to allow scientists to listen to the _____ of the past.

1 feet beaks voices	2 copied hired utilized	3 like such example	4 wistles whistles whistles	5 three two one
6 animal aminal enamil	7 bathtubs deserts forests	8 there their thear	9 similiar similar similier	10 names movements sounds

Write about these topics.

- They say that a lyrebird can even mimic the sound of a typewriter. Write a funny passage about a mimicking situation.
- Write a poem about a lyrebird using the first letters in the word **LYREBIRD** as the beginning letters of each line.

Name: _____

Draw a seagull
at the beach.

ON THE
BACK

SEAGULLS

Gulls often use updrafts of air to soar over large expanses of water.

The seagull's nest is built on the ground and consists of grass, weeds, and rubbish.

Seagull babies are brown and adults are white.



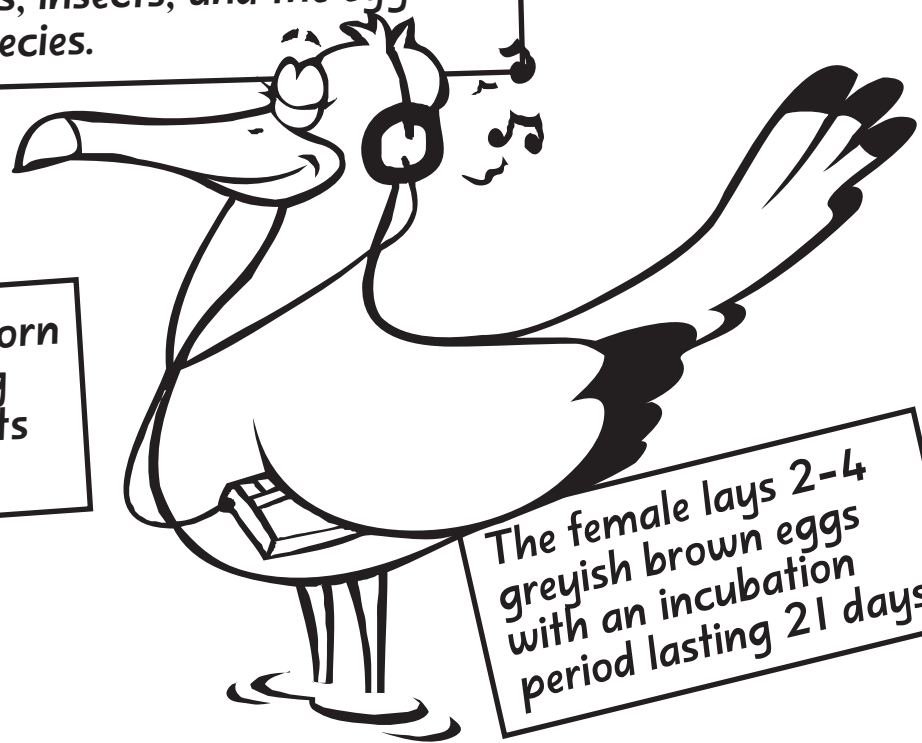
R E D N A S I L V E R
 W A T E R B E A C H Y
 S R E G N E V A C S W
 R W H S E A G U L L S
 G A R B A G E E G D J U
 P A C I F I C Q S S A

SEAGULLS
 SCAVENGERS
 GARBAGE
 SILVER
 PACIFIC
 WATER
 SAND
 BEACH
 EGGS
 RED

It feeds at garbage dumps, along the shorelines of lakes and rivers, and in various farm fields. Its diet consists of small rodents, dead fish, discarded food scraps, insects, and the eggs of other nesting bird species.

A seagull will often fly many kilometres to find food.

Seagulls open stubborn shellfish by carrying them to great heights and dropping them.



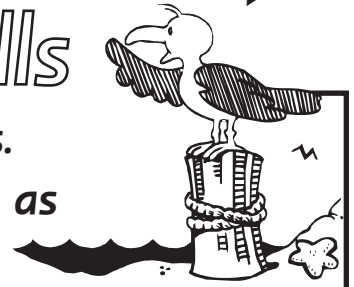
The female lays 2-4 greyish brown eggs with an incubation period lasting 21 days.

Name: _____

Draw a seagull diving for fish.

ON THE BACK

Seagulls



Research questions.

- Write a list of the seagull's good and bad points.
- Why have seagulls been referred to on occasion as 'rats of the sky'?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Seagulls are _____¹ with rather thick, roundish beaks and rounded wings and tail. There are _____² types of Australian seagull: the widespread medium-sized silver gull, and the larger Pacific _____³ which has much more blackish-grey colouring on its back.

When inland, gulls live on _____⁴ rodents, grasshoppers caught in _____⁵, worms, grubs and other insects picked up in freshly plowed fields. They also catch fish, scavenge garbage _____⁶ and forage along beaches.

When catching _____⁷ they splash in from a low hover but never fully _____⁸ themselves. They can _____⁹ insects on the wing. At low tide they walk in the tidal flats and eat _____¹⁰ and molluscs.

1 builders scavengers gigantic	2 two three four	3 dog gull pelican	4 huge immense small	5 soup flight underpants
6 dumps canals lakes	7 snails balls fish	8 imerse emerse immerse	9 seize sieve seeze	10 koalas crustaceans mammals

Write about these topics.

- Write a beautiful poem about a seagull hovering in the sky.
- Write a story about a hungry seagull, always beaten to food.
- Write a list of recommendations for seagulls on how to get the most scraps of food from people at the beach.

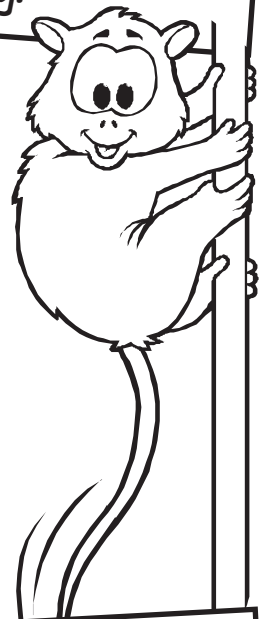
Name: _____

Draw three of your favourite mammals. **ON THE BACK**

MAMMALS

Mammals look after their babies until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Most mammals are more or less hairy.



	fur	bats	milk
babies	hair	platypus	pouch
living	mammals	koala	cats
breathe	dolphins	lungs	dogs
tigers	seals	warm	



All mammals have a backbone, a four-chambered heart and breathe air through lungs.

Mammals are more intelligent than other groups of animals.

All mammals are fed on their mother's milk when they are babies.

L	I	V	I	N	G	O	W	R	W
E	H	T	A	E	R	B	X	Q	A
D	O	G	S	S	O	S	F	U	R
D	G	T	U	R	L	N	M	I	M
K	A	S	P	E	U	I	A	Z	I
C	H	E	Y	G	N	H	M	V	L
R	C	I	T	I	G	P	M	B	K
M	U	B	A	T	S	L	A	E	S
K	O	A	L	A	F	O	L	V	R
N	P	B	P	Q	F	D	S	Y	W



Mammals are warm-blooded. Most mammals keep their body temperature at around 36° Centigrade.

Name: _____

Name some mammals which are not so hairy.



Mammals



Research questions.

- Put some mammals into these categories: mammals that live in trees, mammals that live in water, mammals that live on land, mammals that live underground and mammals that fly.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

All mammals are _____ vertebrates (have a backbone), all _____ on milk from their mothers, all are hairy (except for the mammals that live in _____), all have lungs to _____ and all (except for the monotremes) give birth to live young.

There are three main groups of mammals on the earth:

- Placental mammals that have _____ births of fully developed _____.
- Marsupial mammals that have a live birth but the baby is not fully _____ and needs to finish _____ in the mother's _____ where they drink her milk.
- Monotreme mammals are egg-laying mammals who still feed their babies milk, which is licked from their _____.

1 cold-blooded cool-blooded warm-blooded	2 feed fed food	3 trees water air	4 eat sleep breathe	5 dead egg live
6 babies badies bubies	7 enveloped reveloped developed	8 eating growing reading	9 basket purse pouch	10 eyes feet skin

Write about these topics.

- Write a report on mammals as if it was written by an alien visitor. Explain how they are everywhere: land, sea and air.
- Write about a strange mixed-up mammal (e.g. maybe a mixture of a kangaroo and a dolphin) and its adventures.

Name: _____

Draw a bat hanging upside down.

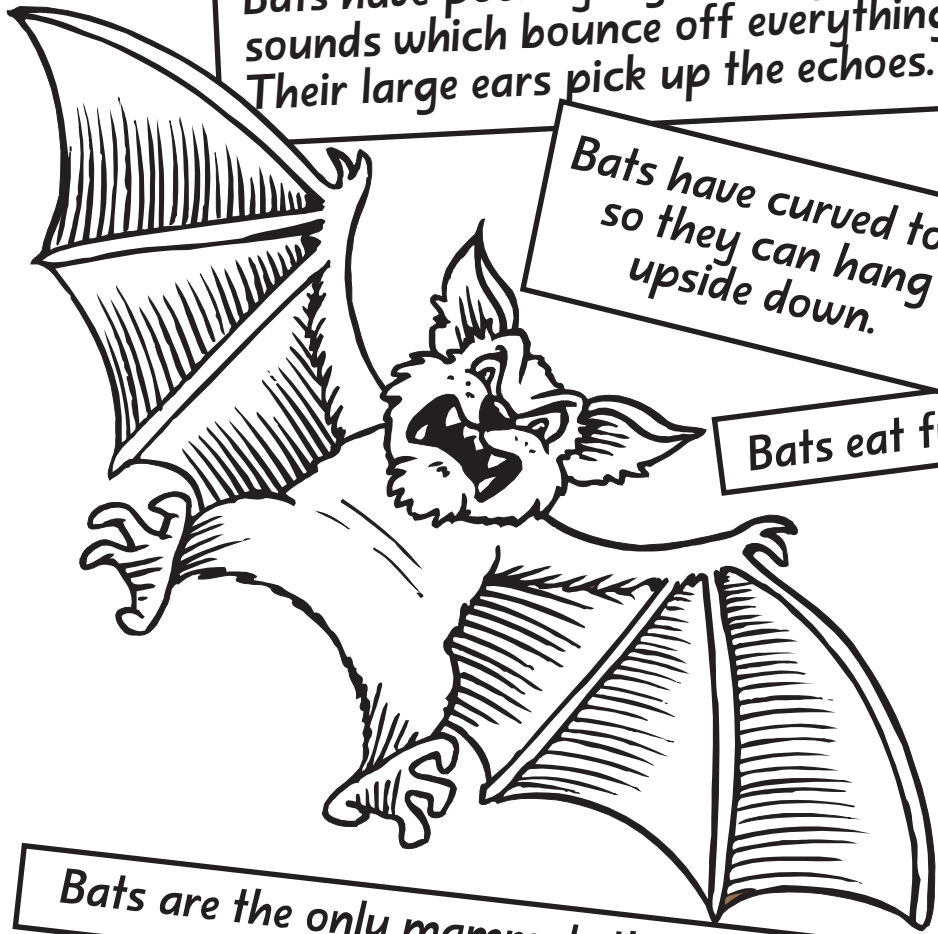


BATS

Bats are nocturnal.



Bats have poor eyesight. They make high-pitched sounds which bounce off everything in front of them. Their large ears pick up the echoes.



Bats have curved toes so they can hang upside down.

Bats eat fruit.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

bats
nocturnal
caves
fruit
insects
fur
radar
hibernate
echoes
wings
fly
toes
night
curved
upside down

U P S I D E D O W N J D C T E
 U F U R A D A R U I C L M O C
 X L R V E H I B E R N A T E H
 A Y C U R V E D G F L G V S O
 O T H G I N S E C T S E S E E
 D U N O C T U R N A L B A T S

Name: _____

Draw some bat cartoons.

ON THE BACK

Research questions.

Bats



- Why are bats considered to be pests by some farmers.
- Find the names of some different Australian bats.
- Collect some facts about vampire bats. Make a poster.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Bats are placental _____¹ native to Australia. Their power of _____² has enabled them to travel from their original homes in Asia to the _____³ continent.

Fruit bats are sometimes called flying _____⁴ because of their fox-like face. Together with blossom bats⁴ and insect-eating bats they rest during the _____⁵ and feed at night. Bats use echo-location (ultrasound) to navigate and the insect-eating bat can hunt for food in total darkness.

As with other _____⁶, many bat populations have _____⁷ through habitat destruction, and in particular some cave-dwelling _____⁸ are _____⁹ by limestone _____¹⁰.

1 birds mammals elephants	2 walking flight jumping	3 Australian Austrian American	4 boxes waxes foxes	5 morning day afternoon
6 vehicles whales wildlife	7 declined inclined increased	8 people stars species	9 threatened working happy	10 exploding dribbling quarrying

Write about these topics.

- Write a story or diary about a vampire bat.
- Are fruit bats misunderstood? Pretend that you are a bat and write a letter to the editor explaining that bats are really quite different from most people's generalizations.

Name: _____

Draw three dolphins doing tricks.



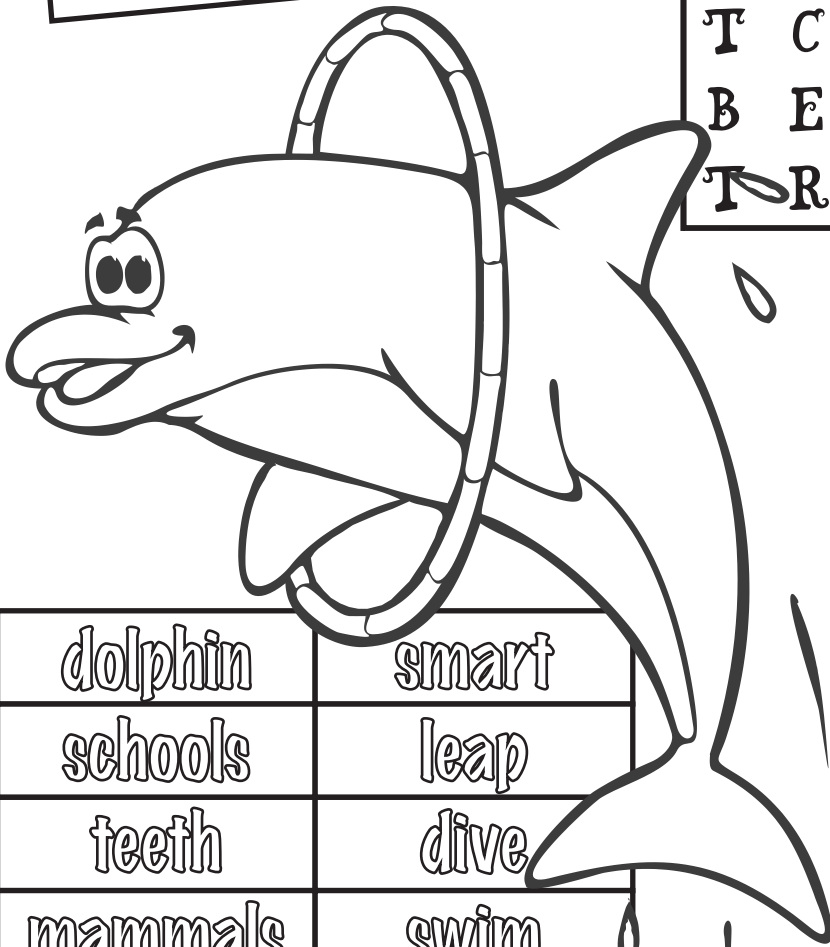
Dolphins are mammals.

Dolphins

Dolphins sleep during the night.

Dolphins have poor eyesight. They use echoes to find their way around, like bats.

S	X	D	O	L	P	H	I	N
S	L	A	M	M	A	M	P	F
K	E	O	W	L	W	I	L	R
C	A	O	O	T	L	W	A	I
I	P	J	H	H	F	S	Y	E
R	Q	J	T	C	C	J	F	N
T	C	E	I	K	E	S	U	D
B	E	V	I	D	P	E	L	L
T	R	A	M	S	W	T	Q	Y



Dolphins have a hole on the top of their head to breathe through.

Dolphins are very smart and can be taught many tricks.

Dolphin babies are born live.

Dolphin babies swim alongside their mothers and suckle on their milk for about six months.

dolphin	smart
schools	leap
teeth	dive
mammals	swim
echoes	friendly
playful	tricks

Name: _____

Draw a dolphin and her baby.

ON THE BACK

Dolphins



Research questions.

- How deep can a dolphin dive?
- What do dolphins eat?
- Are there many different kinds of dolphins? Name some.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Dolphins are _____¹, not fish. They are warm-blooded like man, and give birth to one baby (calf) at a time. At birth a _____² dolphin calf is about 90-130 _____³ long and will grow to approximately 4 metres, living up to 40 _____⁴. They are highly sociable _____⁵ and live in groups called pods.

Dolphins use their _____⁶ tail flukes in an up and down motion to move through the _____⁷. They also use their tails when hunting, hitting a fleeing fish up into the air with their tail, stunning it, then _____⁸ the fish up when it falls back into the water. A dolphin slapping its _____⁹ on the water in the wild may be a sign of annoyance, or a warning to other dolphins of _____¹⁰.

1 camels mammals flannels	2 cannose bottlenose drumnose	3 centimeters centimetres centametres	4 decades years centuries	5 people boats animals
6 powerful weak electric	7 water sand foam	8 cooking scooping storing	9 arms legs tail	10 recess danger bedtime

Write about these topics.

- Write a beautiful poem about dolphins and the ocean.
- Would you like to be a dolphin? Write a list of pros and cons.
- Do you think that we treat dolphins well? Should they be taught tricks?

Name: _____

Draw an echidna eating ants.



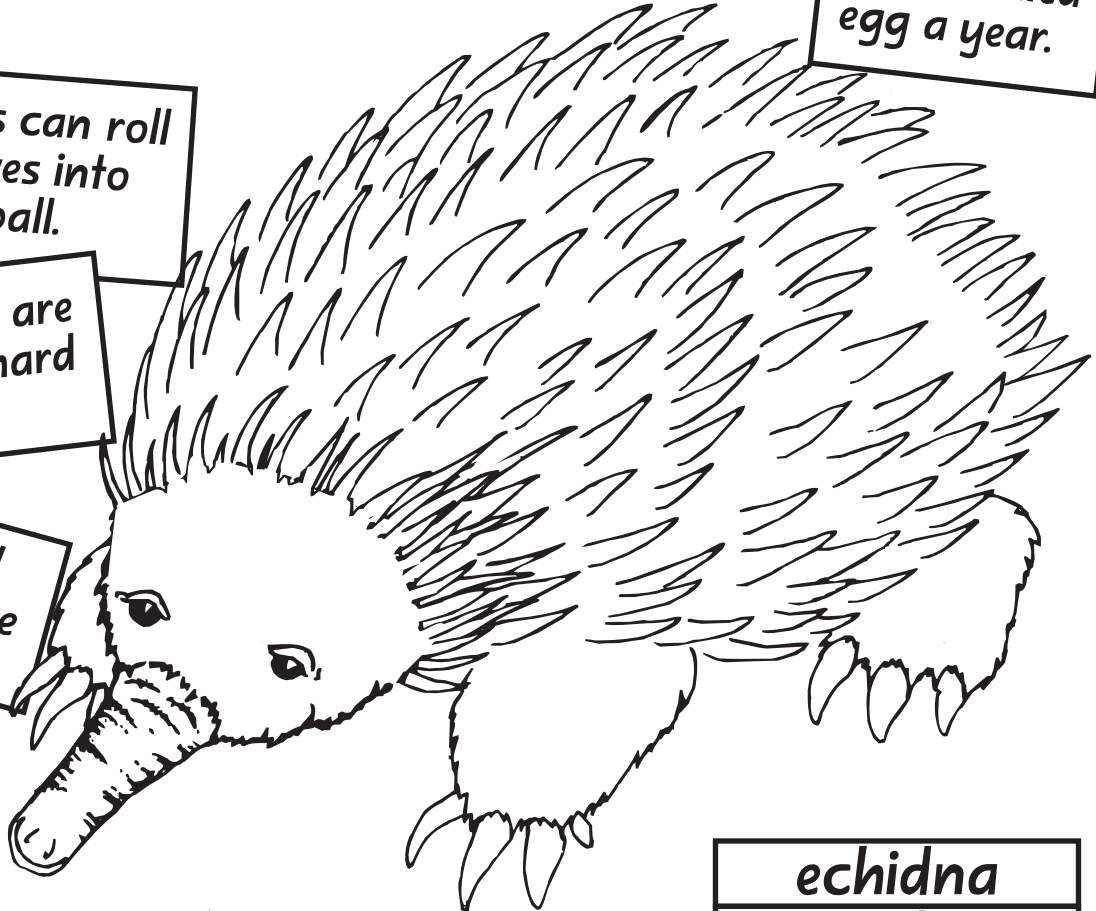
ECHIDNAs

Echidnas lay one soft-shelled egg a year.

Echidnas can roll themselves into a spiky ball.

Their spines are really very hard hairs.

Echidnas and platypuses are cousins.



L A N R U T C O N D
 L M V E C H I D N A
 A O Z S S P I K Y H
 B N S E T W O Q F S
 S O G T O N G U E I
 L T G I X A N C D
 O R E M X C I S S H
 W E M R X P K L T M
 L M S E S R S Y D P
 Y E X T U V E G O H

- echidna
- sticky
- tongue
- ants
- termites
- eggs
- spines
- pouch
- ball
- spiky
- milk
- slowly
- nocturnal
- monotreme

The echidnas and the platypus are the only mammals that can lay eggs.

Name: _____

Draw an echidna rolled into a ball. **ON THE BACK**

Research questions.

Echidnas



- Collect 'monotreme facts' and use them in a poster.
- List the similarities between the platypus and the echidna.
- How do each of these animals protect themselves.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

There are only three _____¹ species of monotremes in the world: the _____² and two species of echidnas. Monotremes are different to all other mammals because they _____³ their young milk, but they do not have any nipples. The young are nourished by _____⁴ milk secreted by the mother's body.

The two types of echidnas are the short-_____⁵ echidna which can be found in Australia and New Guinea, and the long-beaked echidna which can only be found in New Guinea.

The echidna (also called the spiny _____⁶) has a covering of _____⁷, hollow spines and feeds on ants and _____⁸, which get stuck to the sticky saliva on its long tongue. Echidnas like to rest in _____⁹ logs and the females dig burrows to _____¹⁰ their young.

1 known unknown mammal	2 horse platypus fish	3 feel food feed	4 licking liking looping	5 winged footed beaked
6 meat-eater cake-eater anteater	7 strong string spring	8 termites ants bees	9 solid concrete hollow	10 rearing rear reared

Write about these topics.

- Use the beginning letters in the word **ECHIDNA** to write an acrostic poem about the animal.
- Pretend that you are an echidna. Write about the difficulties in raising your young.

Name: _____

Draw some kangaroos eating grass.



KANGAROOS



Kangaroos cannot walk because they cannot move their back legs separately.

Baby kangaroos are called joeys.

kangaroos

pouches

marsupials

hopping

jumping

grass

bound

leap

drink

tails

claws

furry

carry

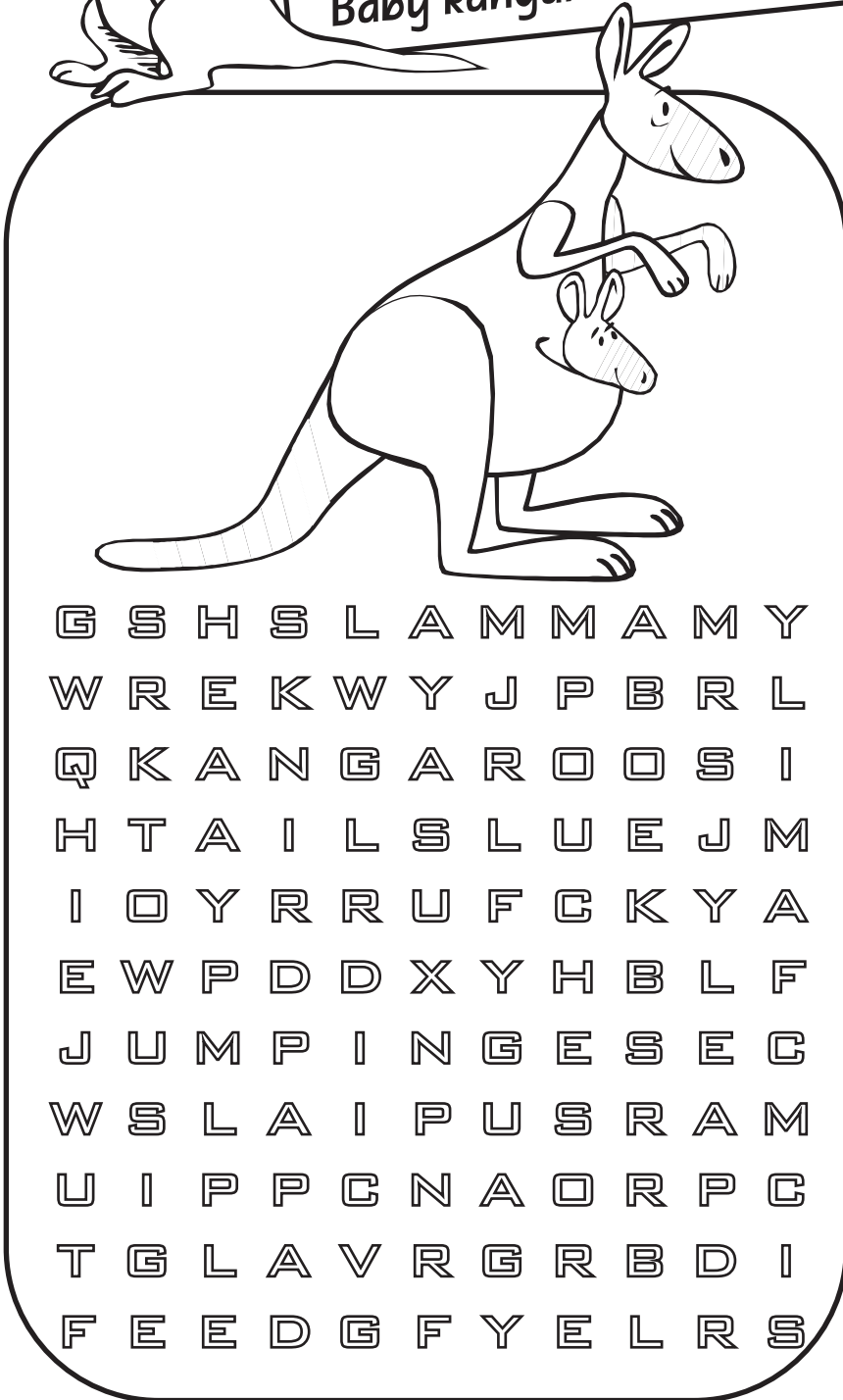
feed

wild

family

mammals

joey



G S H S L A M M A M Y
W R E K W Y J P B R L
Q K A N G A R O O S I
H T A I L S L U E J M
I O Y R R U F C K Y A
E W P D D X Y H B L F
J U M P I N G E S E C
W S L A I P U S R A M
U I P P C N A O R P C
T G L A V R G R B D I
F E E D G F Y E L R S

Baby kangaroos are blind, hairless and only two centimetres long when they are first born.

Some kangaroos can jump nine metres.

Name: _____

Draw three different kinds of kangaroos.



Research questions.

Kangaroos



- Do we need to 'control' our kangaroo population?
- What are the differences between kangaroos and wallabies?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

There are about fifty _____¹ of kangaroos in Australia and they can be _____² in almost all types of habitats. They live high in the _____³, in deserts, in rainforests and on the coasts. There is even a type of _____⁴ with a very long tail that lives in trees.

Kangaroos have large _____⁵ legs and a heavy, thick tail, which acts as a counter-balance when they are _____⁶. Their tail is also used as a _____⁷ when the animal stands upright.

Some kangaroos are either _____⁸ or have become extinct through habitat _____⁹ and predation by foxes.

A number of the larger species are regarded as _____¹⁰ by graziers because they compete with livestock for grass.

1 species species speacies	2 lost found moving	3 lakes oceans mountains	4 kangaroo wombat koala	5 fore side hind
6 dancing thinking hopping	7 prop prod pad	8 indangered undangered endangered	9 explosion destruction instruction	10 pets pests pesto

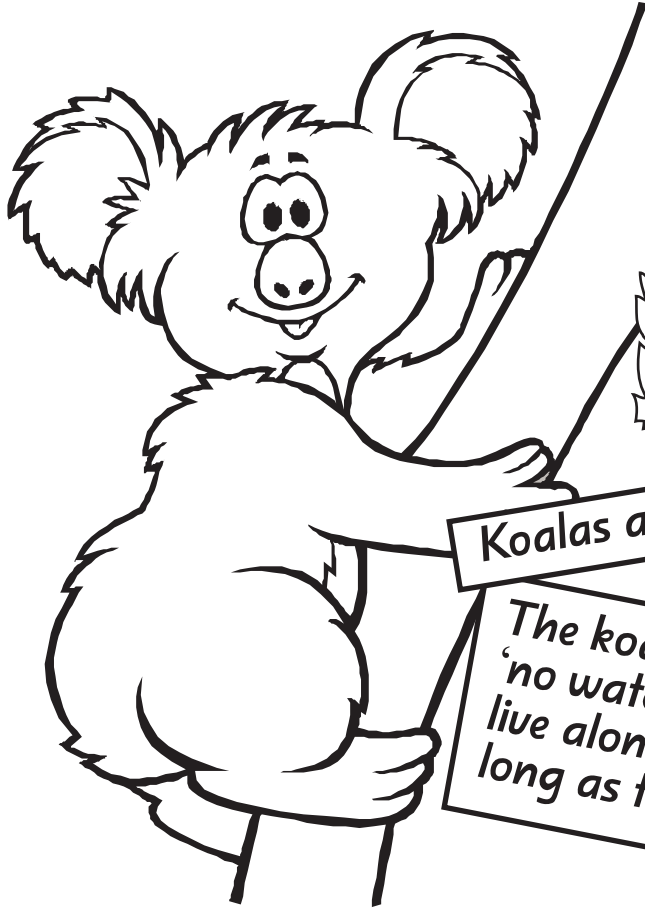
Write about these topics.

- Use the beginning letters in the word **KANGAROO** to write an acrostic poem about the animal.
- Write a paragraph reasoning why kangaroos should be culled (shot or otherwise killed) and another against the action.

Name: _____

Draw a koala
in its tree.

ON THE
BACK



Koalas have a pouch where their baby can drink milk. When they are too big they ride on their mother's back.



Koalas are protected animals.

The koala's name means 'no water'. They like to live alone and can live as long as twenty years.

KOALAS
TREETOPS
MARSUPIAL
POUCH
WATER
DRINK
LEAVES
CLAWS
PROTECTED
MAMMAL
SOFT
FURRY
CUDDLY
CHEWING
SLEEPING
BRANCHES

Z B G N I P E E L S G
 J R C U S Q T E W F N
 O A Z P R F W A J G I
 C N K K O A L A S P W
 L C N S T C O P L O E
 A H I E H P O U C H H
 M E R N Q T V X K Y C
 M S D L E A V E S R U
 A G D E T C E T O R P
 M A R S U P I A L U L
 Z T V Y L D D U C F A

Name: _____

Invent some recipes for a koala e.g. leaf soup.

ON THE BACK

Research questions.

Koalas



- Why was the koala made a protected species?
- What is the disease some koala populations are suffering from? How can they be helped?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The koala only _____¹ the leaves from certain eucalyptus _____. An adult will eat five hundred _____² of leaves a day. The koala has a remarkably long _____³ and this enables it to digest the harsh tannins and oils in the _____⁴.

The koala has a home range of fourteen or fifteen trees, but individuals _____⁵ to favour a particular one. In addition to providing nutrition, the leaves contain enough _____⁶ for the animal's needs, and that is how the koala got its name (although it actually does drink _____⁷).

Koalas are _____⁸ and heavily built with adult males known to reach thirteen kilograms in _____⁹ and seventy five centimetres in length.

1 drinks eats shreds	2 plants shrubs trees	3 grams tonnes metres	4 nose toe intestine	5 leaves bark trunk
6 prefur prefer profer	7 dirt wood water	8 occasionally never not	9 small large tiny	10 height length weight

Write about these topics.

- Write a high up, green and leafy poem for a koala.
- Draw some koala cartoons.
- Write a protest letter for a koala: 'the trees are scarce, leaves are losing their flavour, too many tourists etc.'

Name: _____

Draw a platypus **ON THE BACK** finding food in a river.

PLATYPUS

The platypus feeds at night when there is less danger.



They eat yabbies, crabs, worms and small fish.



The platypus cannot breathe underwater. It can hold its breath for five to eight minutes.

- PLATYPUS
- BURROW
- WEBBED
- BILL
- TAIL
- RIVER
- EGGS
- SPURS
- COAT
- NEST
- AIR
- BANKS
- YABBY
- WORMS

The platypus lays two soft-shelled eggs at the end of a burrow in a nest made of grass.

The male platypus is the only mammal with poisonous spurs on his back legs.

The platypus uses its sensitive bill to feel for food when it is underwater.

A large rectangular area containing a grid of letters for a word search. The letters are arranged in 10 rows and 10 columns. The letters are: Row 1: C O A T E S; Row 2: Y A B B Y S; Row 3: W O R M S O; Row 4: W E B B E D; Row 5: T A I L G I; Row 6: P L L G G T; Row 7: L R L X S U; Row 8: A I I E W B; Row 9: T A N V S U; Row 10: Y T M P E R; Row 11: P H U Y D R; Row 12: U R Y D U O; Row 13: S K N A B W.

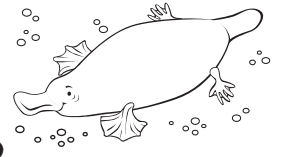
Name: _____

Draw two species of monotremes.



Research questions.

Platypuses



- How big are platypuses?
- Make a list of any threats to the platypus.
- How do monotremes differ from other mammals?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

The platypus, or _____¹ platypus, is found in coastal streams of Tasmania and from northern Queensland to eastern South _____.

To feed,² the platypus uses its broad, sensitive, flattened _____ to locate invertebrate prey on stream _____³ by means of a unique sensing device that _____⁴ changes in electrical fields.⁵

Platypuses prefer _____⁶ pools, and make their nests under the roots of _____⁷ along stream banks; usually two eggs are laid, and incubated by the female. The adult male has a sharp, hollow spur on each ankle, equipped with a poison gland.

Although _____⁸ in places, the _____⁹ is particularly vulnerable to land disturbance and to the _____¹⁰ of chemical runoff from agricultural land.

1 pig-snouted duck-billed duck-beaked	2 Austria Peru Australia	3 foot bill ear	4 chairs tables beds	5 protects detects defects
6 quiet quite quilt	7 trees caravans vegetables	8 varied relaxing common	9 kangaroo echidna platypus	10 affect infect effect

Write about these topics.

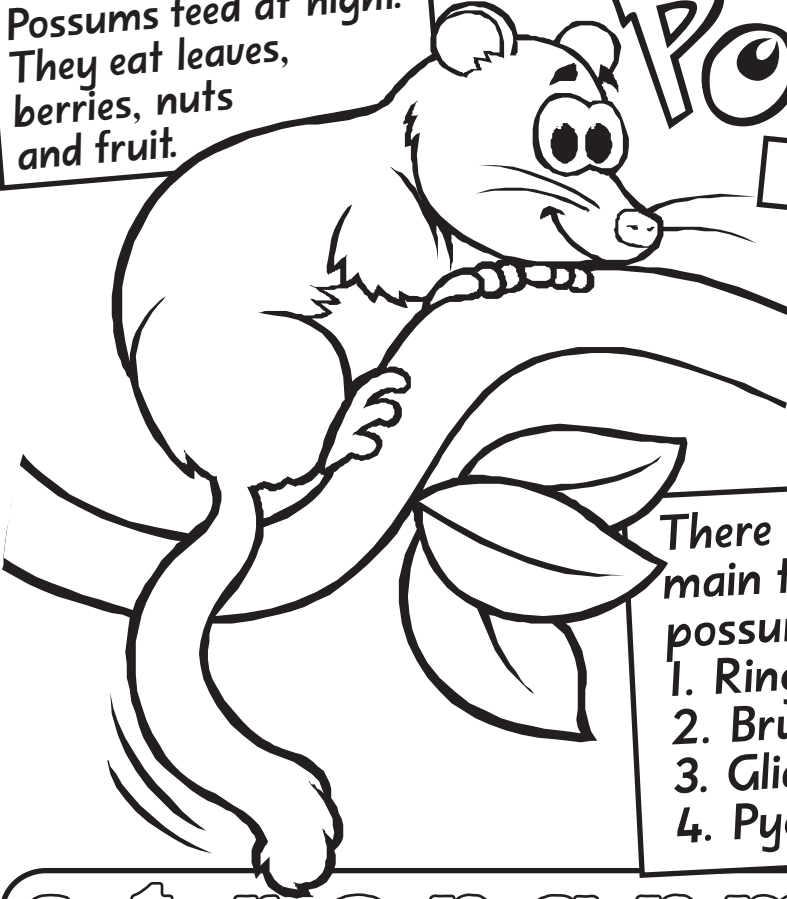
- Write a 'letter to the editor' about chemical run-off from agricultural land damaging the habitat of the platypus.
- Pretend that you are a platypus. Write about the perfect place to live.

Name: _____

Draw some possums in a big tree.



Possums feed at night. They eat leaves, berries, nuts and fruit.



POSSUMS

Possums and koalas are cousins.

There are four main types of possums:

1. Ringtail Possums
2. Brushtail Possums
3. Glider Possums
4. Pygmy Possums.

- MARSUPIALS
- MAMMALS
- BRUSHTAIL
- POSSUMS
- RINGTAIL
- GLIDERS
- PYGMY
- ACTIVE
- POUCH
- STRONG
- CLAWS
- CLING
- HANG
- NOISY
- NIGHT
- TREES
- FRUIT
- LEAP
- MILK
- HUNT
- EYES

s t r o n g n m i l k
 a o i g c i s e y e e
 o p n n g l l m g f l
 e a g h s a a l b r i
 h e t u c m i w h u a
 i l a t m d p c s i t
 s c i a e y u m f t h
 e v l r p o s s u m s
 e s s i p k r i n f u
 r j h u n t a y o g r
 t j d p y g m y a n b

Name: _____

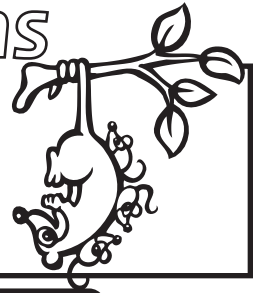
Draw some possum cartoons.



Research questions.

- Find four facts about gliding possums.
- What uses was the possum put to by early Australian settlers?

Possums



Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Possums are arboreal (tree-dwelling) marsupials (mammals with a ¹_____) and commonly have a mixed ²_____ of insects, nectar, blossom and pollen.

Possums range from small, mouse-like ³_____ to quite large gliding and brush-tailed forms; there are 42 species in _____.

The honey possum has a long snout and ⁴_____ to help it gather sticky food from ⁵_____. Striped possums have a very long fourth ⁶_____ so that it can get insects from logs. The feathertail possum has membranes ⁷_____ its front and back feet, and a feather-like tail to help it ⁸_____ between trees. It eats nectar from blossoming gum trees and will build a nest from ⁹_____ in a high tree hollow.

1 purse pouch pout	2 platter grill diet	3 birds animals frogs	4 Australia Sweden Belgium	5 tonuge tounge tongue
6 flourers flours flowers	7 finger ear arm	8 over under between	9 swim glide run	10 steel golf balls leaves

Write about these topics.

- Write a poem or make a list a words to describe what it would be like to glide from tree to tree in a forest.
- Select your favourite species of possum and write about why it appeals to you.

Name: _____

Draw a big whale diving through the waves.



WHALES

Whales have live births and feed their babies milk.

Whales can be 30 metres long and weigh as much as 30 elephants.

Whales are the largest animals to ever live on the Earth.

Whales are warm-blooded mammals.

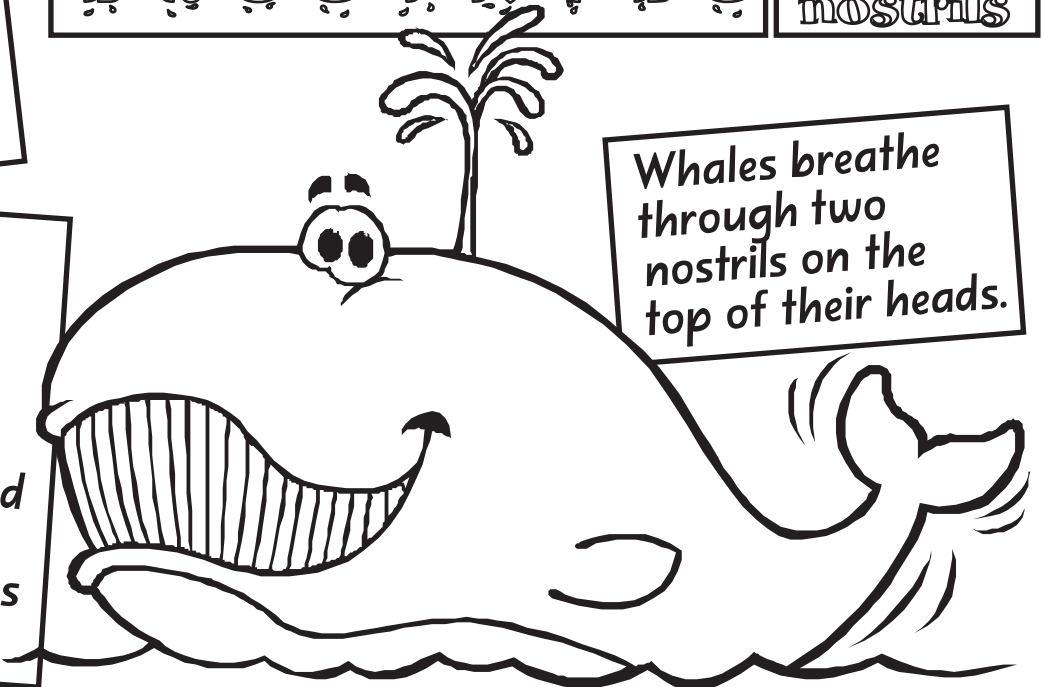
Whales have a thick layer of fat called blubber to keep them warm.

Whales filter sea water for food. They eat plankton, krill and shrimp.

Whales surface every five to ten minutes to breathe. With a loud noise they blow out the used air from their lungs. This makes a water spout.

X	B	J	K	O	N	M	U	I
V	V	I	W	M	O	A	I	I
D	S	P	O	U	T	M	A	I
W	B	B	Z	W	K	M	R	R
T	A	E	A	G	N	A	G	K
I	I	T	W	H	A	I	E	S
R	E	B	B	U	I	B	H	S
R	E	F	I	P	P	E	R	S
E	N	O	S	T	R	I	I	S

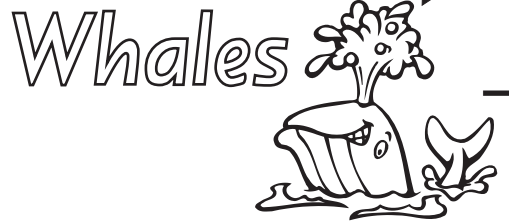
- whales
- plankton
- large
- mammal
- blubber
- spout
- baleen
- water
- krill
- blow
- flipper
- nostrils



Whales breathe through two nostrils on the top of their heads.

Name: _____

Draw some whales stranded on a beach. **ON THE BACK**



Research questions.

- Find facts on the whaling industry.
- How do we protect our whales?
- Select one type of whale and find facts for a mini-project.

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Whales and _____ are cetaceans. This means that they are mammals which have adapted to a _____ aquatic existence.

The species of whales most likely to be seen in Australian waters, or occasionally _____ on the shore, include members of the two main sub-orders, the _____ whales (which have a baleen or whalebone) and the toothed whales.

Toothless whales take in _____ mouthfuls of water when feeding and then _____ it very efficiently through a whalebone screen keeping the krill and _____. This group includes the southern _____ whale, the blue whale (the largest known _____) and the _____.

Toothed whales have ivory-like teeth for chewing food like fish and squid or, as in the case of the killer whale, other whales.

1 possums dolphins snakes	2 holy wholy wholly	3 picnicking stranded partying	4 toothless footless wingless	5 tiny miniature huge
6 cook watch filter	7 plankton barnacles oysters	8 wrong right maybe	9 bird canine mammal	10 humpfront humpside humpback

Write about these topics.

- Write about being a stranded whale on a beach, or being chased by a fishing trawler.
- Some people say that whales sing to each other. Write about what they might be singing about.

Name: _____

Draw a wombat
in its burrow.



Wombats

Wombats are nocturnal, herbivorous marsupials.

Wombats can grow to be one metre long and weigh forty kilograms. They have very strong claws and can dig really big burrows to live in.

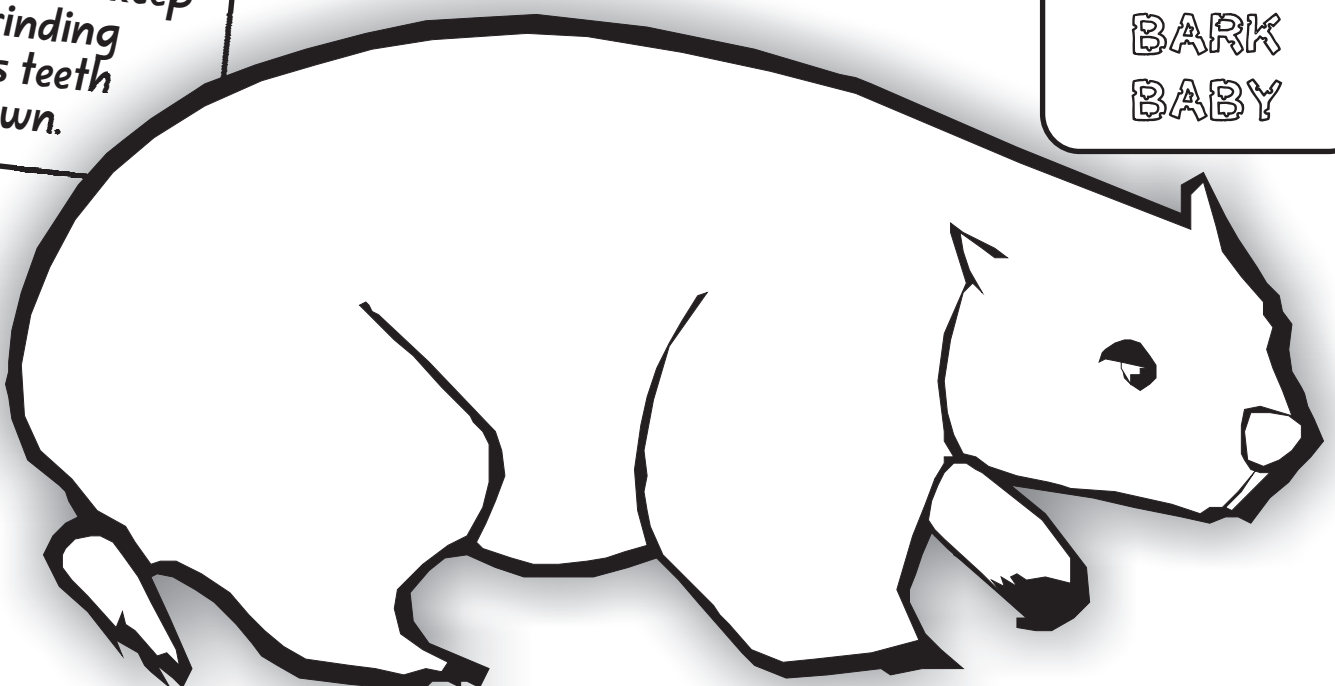
- BURROWS
- LEGS
- STAND
- LEAVES
- POUCH
- WOMBAT
- TEETH
- HAIRY
- FUR
- GNAW
- FOOD
- DIG
- SLEEPS
- QUIET
- CLAWS
- BARK
- BABY

Wombats and koalas are relatives.

Wombats have pouches.

A wombat's teeth never stop growing. A wombat has to gnaw all of the time to keep grinding his teeth down.

CLAWSHFD T
 SPEELS YUY
 PLEAVESIR
 WOMBATGLI
 ABURROWSA
 NSTCTEETH
 GIDEHKRAB
 QUIETLJNV
 BABYFOODU



Name: _____

Draw some
wombat cartoons.



Wombats

Research questions.

- What are the differences between the common wombat and the hairy-nosed wombat.
- Why is the wombat considered a pest in some areas?

Select the best answer for each of the blank spaces in the passage.

Wombats are mostly _____¹ animals who feed primarily on _____² and may weigh as much as forty _____³. Although they are mostly nocturnal they sometimes emerge in winter or on overcast days to _____⁴ or bask in the open.

The female wombat has a _____⁵ which contains two teats. The baby wombats (usually only one at a time) are born in autumn, nourished in the pouch _____⁶ the winter, and weaned in spring. Although they are generally slow-moving, wombats can _____⁷ at a fast shuffle or even a clumsy but effective _____⁸.

There are three _____⁹ species of wombat, all confined to Australia: the common _____¹⁰, and two species of hairy-nosed wombat.

1 solitary soldierly spotty	2 chips casseroles grasses	3 tonnes grams kilograms	4 graze sing dance	5 bag jacket pouch
6 after before during	7 crawl move hover	8 gallop swim sleep	9 unknown secret known	10 koala platypus wombat

Write about these topics.

- Write a story about the wombat who was very lonely and decided to do something about it.
- Write a funny list of uses for recycled wombat holes.
- Write about being stuck in a wombat hole overnight.

Answers

Reptiles	
1 three	6 greatly
2 appear	7 dry
3 total	8 very
4 species	9 feeds
5 lizards	10 water

Crocodiles	
1 found	6 fish
2 coastal	7 horses
3 reptile	8 before
4 travelling	9 stones
5 feed	10 lumbering

Frogs	
1 unusual	6 discovered
2 adaptations	7 eggs
3 heard	8 frog
4 amplified	9 special
5 recognised	10 water

Snakes	
1 lizards	6 large
2 world	7 vibrations
3 snakes	8 sounds
4 disconnect	9 mixture
5 swallow	10 fangs

Tortoises	
1 longest	6 shells
2 animal	7 vegetation
3 grow	8 loudly
4 fragile	9 head
5 kinds	10 island

Turtles	
1 flippers	6 chambers
2 sea	7 turtles
3 eggs	8 declined
4 metres	9 eggs
5 return	10 breed

Fish	
1 years	6 kilometres
2 unchanged	7 bony
3 body	8 caves
4 water	9 eyes
5 species	10 find

Crabs	
1 lobsters	6 pairs
2 sideways	7 extreme
3 burrow	8 adapt
4 shell	9 see
5 body	10 food

Jellyfish	
1 centimetres	6 action
2 corner	7 fish
3 tentacles	8 contact
4 length	9 pain
5 speeds	10 effect

Octopuses	
1 molluscs	6 invertebrates
2 beak	7 memories
3 poisonous	8 problems
4 seen	9 solved
5 antidote	10 similar

Seahorses	
1 seaweed	6 body
2 water	7 water
3 mouth	8 eggs
4 tiny	9 pouch
5 swim	10 centimetre

Sharks	
1 streamlined	6 food
2 buoyant	7 sandpaper
3 moves	8 extinction
4 aeroplane	9 thousands
5 bones	10 nets

Birds	
1 adapted	6 flightless
2 nesting	7 black
3 holes	8 birds
4 protection	9 calls
5 winter	10 tones

Cockatoos	
1 parrots	6 toes
2 cockatoos	7 lay
3 all	8 rare
4 often	9 major
5 bills	10 people

Emus	
1 bigger	6 makes
2 grow	7 incubates
3 metres	8 ground
4 powerful	9 weighing
5 running	10 stripes

Kookaburras	
1 Australia	6 food
2 holes	7 Males
3 dawn	8 tree
4 answer	9 help
5 variety	10 breed

Lyrebirds	
1 voices	6 animal
2 copied	7 forests
3 such	8 their
4 whistles	9 similar
5 one	10 sounds

Seagulls	
1 scavengers	6 dumps
2 two	7 fish
3 gull	8 immerse
4 small	9 seize
5 flight	10 crustaceans

Mammals	
1 warm-blooded	6 babies
2 feed	7 developed
3 water	8 growing
4 breathe	9 pouch
5 live	10 skin

Bats	
1 mammals	6 wildlife
2 flight	7 declined
3 Australian	8 species
4 foxes	9 threatened
5 day	10 quarrying

Dolphins	
1 mammals	6 powerful
2 bottlenose	7 water
3 centimetres	8 scooping
4 years	9 tail
5 animals	10 danger

Echidnas	
1 known	6 anteater
2 platypus	7 strong
3 feed	8 termites
4 licking	9 hollow
5 beaked	10 rear

Kangaroos	
1 species	6 hopping
2 found	7 prop
3 mountains	8 endangered
4 kangaroo	9 destruction
5 hind	10 pests

Koalas	
1 eats	6 prefer
2 trees	7 water
3 grams	8 occasionally
4 intestine	9 large
5 leaves	10 weight

Platypuses	
1 duck-billed	6 quiet
2 Australia	7 trees
3 bill	8 common
4 beds	9 platypus
5 detects	10 effect

Possums	
1 pouch	6 flowers
2 diet	7 finger
3 animals	8 between
4 Australia	9 glide
5 tongue	10 leaves

Whales	
1 dolphins	6 filter
2 wholly	7 plankton
3 stranded	8 right
4 toothless	9 mammal
5 huge	10 humpback

Wombat	
1 solitary	6 during
2 grasses	7 move
3 kilograms	8 gallop
4 graze	9 known
5 pouch	10 wombat

Australian Animal Worksheets presents facts and information about Australian animals and allows students to explore the topics further.

- * Topics include reptiles, fish, birds and mammals.
- * Comprehension and cloze activities.
- * Research and writing activities.
- * Suitable for classroom work, extension activities, homework or projects.

This book is suitable for the following grades in different states.

	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	WA	NT	SA	QLD	NZ
K, Prep									
1									
2									
3	✓	✓	✓	✓					
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

LOWER MIDDLE UPPER

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