



# BE A KANGAROO WATCHER

Mapping the movements of kangaroos at the zoo



## GRADE 4

### KEY WORDS

- marsupial
- joey
- pouch

### STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.1
- SCI.4.3.3

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about kangaroos and their habitat through observation at the zoo.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Marsupials make up the largest group of Australian mammals. Kangaroos, koalas, wombats, and Tasmanian devils are just a few -- more than 100 types of marsupials are found in Australia.
- Marsupials are born in a highly underdeveloped state after a short gestation (pregnancy). The tiny, blind baby (about the size of a bean) must travel on its own from the womb to the pouch. This perilous journey takes only a few minutes as the baby pulls itself across the mother's fur to the pouch. Once inside the pouch, the baby attaches to a teat (nipple) and begins to nurse. After a few months, the baby may get its first glimpse of the world by peeking out from the pouch. Gradually, the youngster, called a joey, ventures from the pouch more and more, eventually leaving for good after a year or more.
- Kangaroos come in many different shapes and sizes. Three examples of kangaroos are Doria's tree kangaroo, the Western gray kangaroo, and the red kangaroo. Inhabiting every niche, they include the wallabies, bettongs, pademelons, wallaroos, and tree kangaroos.

### PROCEDURE

- When at the zoo, have students use the attached worksheet to draw a map of the kangaroo yard in the grid, showing landmarks.
- Have each student pick a kangaroo to watch in order to complete the worksheet.

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check to see if the students completed their grid and if they recorded their observations every 2 minutes.

### EXTENSIONS

- Have the students explain the functions of each body part of the kangaroo. For example: The pouch of the kangaroo is to hold the joey as they grow and mature.





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Draw the kangaroo yard, showing landmarks like trees, fences, paths, and buildings.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Pick a kangaroo to observe at the zoo. Give your kangaroo a name. \_\_\_\_\_

Every 2 minutes, record the time. Write down the area of the grid in which your kangaroo is sitting (or standing). Then describe exactly what your kangaroo is doing.

TIME	AREA #	OBSERVATIONS

