



KANGA-PARTS

Observing kangaroos at the zoo



GRADES 4-5

KEY WORDS

- marsupial
- joey
- pouch

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.1
- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn that marsupials are a group of mammals whose young are born in a highly underdeveloped state, and complete their development in the pouch of the female.
- Students will understand the functions of different body parts on a kangaroo.

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

- Give each student the attached worksheet upon arrival to the zoo.
- Have the students match the kangaroo parts and senses with the body part it is associated with on the kangaroo diagram.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check to be certain the students matched the body part with the correct function.
- See where students placed an "X".

TEACHER HINTS

- To do this activity in the classroom rather than at the zoo, omit the step in which students add an "X" when the kangaroo performs the activity.





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ANSWER KEY

- A. Nose
- B. Hind Leg
- C. Pouch
- D. Toes
- E. Mouth
- F. Tip of Ears
- G. Middle of ears
- H. Tail
- I. Fur





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Match the kangaroo's parts to its function below by placing the corresponding letter on the line.
Place an "X" on the line beside the letter when the kangaroo does one of the listed items.

Name _____

- A. Smelling
- B. Kicking
- C. Holding baby
- D. Combing hair
- e. Chewing
- F. Cooling off
- G. Hearing
- H. Balancing
- I. Protecting the skin from heat and cold

