



KOALA CROSSWORD

Complete a crossword to learn about koalas



GRADES 3 - 4

KEY WORDS

- koala
- eucalyptus
- marsupial

STANDARD

- SCI.4.3.2

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn about koalas by completing a crossword puzzle.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The small, gray, bear-like koala is one of Australia's best-loved mammals. According to Australian folklore, the spirits of lost children live in koalas.
- Koalas spend their lives high in branches of eucalyptus, or gum trees. Their strong claws help them hold onto branches.
- With their bright eyes, fuzzy ears, shiny nose, thick fur, and stump of a tail, koalas look like they are related to bears. However, they are not bears. They belong to the group of animals called marsupials, or pouched mammals.
- Female koalas carry their young in a pouch. The newborn remains there for several months. Young koalas are helpless during their first year of life, because they are not able to gather their own food.

PROCEDURE

- Have students used the attached crossword puzzle.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check to be certain students filled in the blanks correctly.

EXTENSIONS

- Have students research the different types of pouches that marsupials have, then construct three-dimensional models to illustrate each type of pouch. Students will learn that pouches are not "pockets" as they are often portrayed in storybooks.

ANSWER KEY

ACROSS:

- 5. Australia
- 6. months
- 8. folklore
- 10. bear
- 11. eucalyptus.

DOWN:

- 1. gray
- 2. claws
- 3. marsupials
- 4. thick
- 7. pouches
- 9. helplessness





KOALA CROSSWORD



Use the clues to fill in the blanks with the koala's described characteristic.

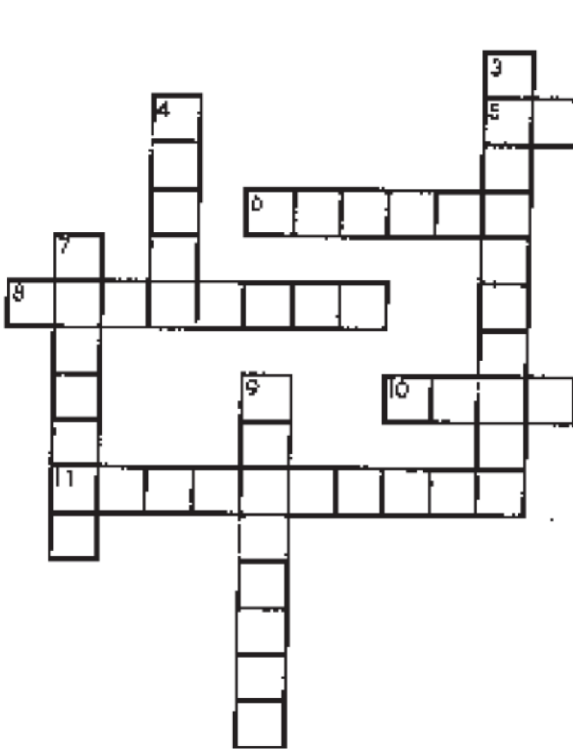
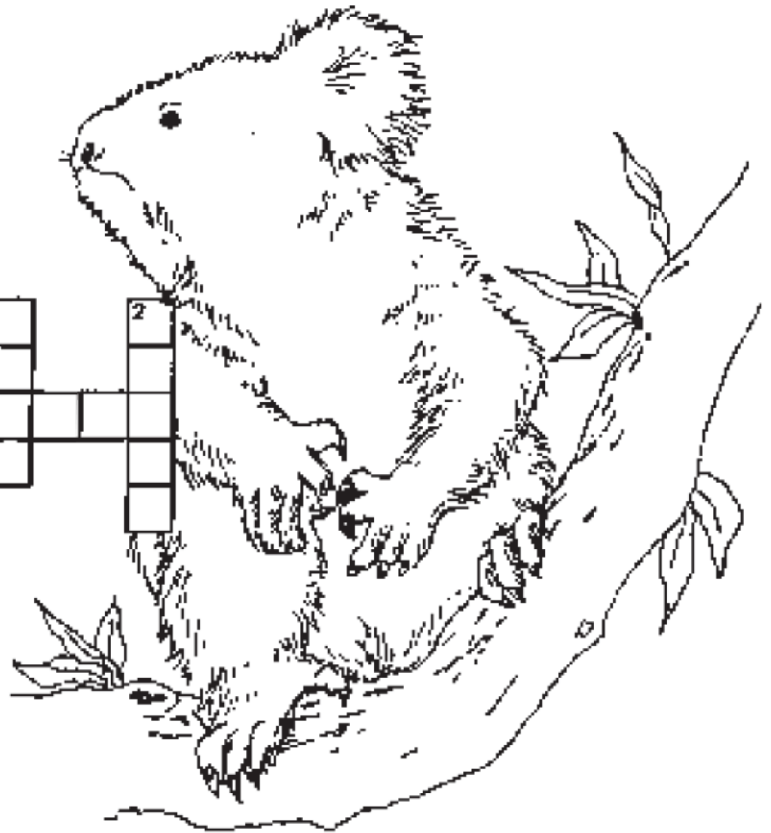
Name _____

The small, gray, bear-like koala is one of Australia's best-loved mammals. According to Australian folklore, the spirits of lost children live in koalas.

Koalas spend their lives high in branches of eucalyptus, or gum trees. Their strong claws help them hold onto branches.

With their bright eyes, fuzzy ears, shiny nose, thick fur, and stump of a tail, koalas look like they are related to bears. However, they are not bears. They belong to the group of animals called marsupial, or pouched mammals.

Female koalas carry their young in a pouch. The newborn remains there for several months. Young koalas are helpless during their first year of life, because they are not able to gather their own food.



ACROSS

- 5. Koalas live in _____.
- 6. A baby koala stays in its mother's pouch for several _____.
- 8. Stories told by people of a certain area.
- 10. The koala looks like this animal
- 11. A gum tree is also called a _____.

DOWN

- 1. The color of koalas
- 2. The body part that makes the koalas suitable for life in the trees (plural)
- 3. Pouched mammals (plural)
- 4. The kind of fur koalas have
- 7. Female koalas carry their young in _____.