



# THE KOALA

Understanding koala behavior and life patterns



## GRADE 2

### KEY WORDS

- marsupial
- eucalyptus

### STANDARDS

- SCI.2.3.2

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will understand koala behavior and their stages of life.

### 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.
- Like the kangaroo, the furry koala is also an Australian marsupial. Koalas grow to 2-3 feet long, and can weigh up to 25 pounds.
- Koalas only eat leaves of certain eucalyptus (YOO-kuh-LIP-tuss) trees in which they live.
- After birth, the tiny baby koala crawls into its mother's pouch and stays for 6 months. It then crawls out and is carried on its mother's back for another 6 months.
- If a koala baby becomes separated from its mother at feeding time, it will usually be nursed by another female. The koala is one of the few animals that will "share" baby care.

### PROCEDURE

- Have students determine which stage of the koala's lifecycle each picture represents by placing numbers 1-4 next to each picture.
- Have students draw what they believe the next step in the koala's life will be.

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check to be certain students have placed the correct number with the correct picture.
- See if students had an accurate guess of what will happen next in the koala's life.

### ANSWERS

A. 3rd ; B. 2nd ; C. 4th ; D. 1st

### 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.





# THE KOALA



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Like the kangaroo, the koala is also an Australian marsupial. Koalas grow to 2-3 feet long, and can weigh up to 25 pounds. Koalas only eat leaves of certain eucalyptus (YOO-kuh-LIP-tuss) trees in which they live. After birth, the tiny baby koala crawls into its mother's pouch and stays for 6 months. Then it crawls out and is carried on its mother's back for another 6 months. If a koala baby becomes separated from its mother at feeding time, it will usually be nursed by another female. The koala is one of the few animals that will "share" baby care.

Write down which picture comes first, second, third, and fourth.



A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of what you think happens next in the life of a koala.

