OBJECTIVES

• Students will learn about koalas.
• Students will decide why an adaptation occurred.

PROCEDURE

• Have students read the included paragraph.
• Have students answer the question.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

• Ensure that the student gave a reasonable answer.
• Suggested Answer: Since a koala spends its life in trees, a paw with two opposable thumbs helps the koala to have a better grip on the tree branches.

EXTENSIONS

• Have students do further research on koalas and present their findings to the class.
Koalas spend most of their lives in trees, where they feed on tasty leaves. But not just any leaves -- koalas only eat leaves from eucalyptus (YOO-ka-LIP-tus) trees. Koalas eat about 2-1/2 pounds of leaves every day, but they drink very little water. They get their water from the leaves instead.

Koalas are not bears. Koalas are marsupials, so they are close relatives of the kangaroo. The female koala carries her young in a pouch. When the baby outgrows the pouch, it rides on its mother’s back.

The koala’s paw has an unusual shape. Why do you think the koala’s paw is shaped like this?

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