



Be a Kangaroo Researcher



PROGRAM GOALS

- ☛ Observe kangaroos and record observations
- ☛ To understand kangaroos' behaviors and actions

GRADES

6th to 8th

MATERIALS

- ☛ Pencils
- ☛ Clipboards

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- ☛ Grade worksheet based on completeness
- ☛ Discuss observations of kangaroos

What Are They Doing?

Practice your students' research skills as they learn about Fort Wayne Children's Zoo kangaroos and their habitat. Each kangaroo will be doing something different in their habitat, so join us and help us identify the kangaroos' behaviors. Studying kangaroo's behaviors allow researchers to understand how they interact with each other and their environments. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- ☛ How would you describe their habitats?
- ☛ How many kangaroos are there?
- ☛ What are the kangaroos doing?
- ☛ Can you describe how they are moving?
- ☛ Why do you think this kangaroo is behaving in a certain way?

Your help in observing their behaviors allows researchers to better understand their needs for management or conservation efforts! Their conservation status is listed as Least Concern, which means their population is stable. Australia's conservation actions include protected sites, and management plans to ensure that kangaroos receive what they need to live long, healthy lives. Be on the lookout for the kangaroo's behaviors at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities.

Behaviors can include:

Eating: They are herbivores, where they love to graze on grass and other vegetations such as leaves, twigs, and barks of trees and shrubs.

Resting: They are nocturnal or crepuscular, so they tend to rest in the shade during the hottest part of the day.

Hopping: Kangaroos can reach top speeds up to 40 mph for short bursts, or travel for long distances at 10-15 mph. They can cover 20 feet or more in a single hop.

Walking: The kangaroo can't move his hind legs independently, like us, humans can for walking, which is why they use their forepaws and tails to assist in walking.

Swimming: They are very good swimmers and will often evade predators by swimming. They use a dog paddle stroke, the only time they move their limbs independently.

Boxing: Adult males will often spar with each other to determine who is dominant, and who will breed with the females. They lean back on their tails and kick with the back legs or scratch at each other with the front legs, which can look like boxing.

Talking: Kangaroos have three main vocalizations which are clucking, bark, and growl to communicate with one another. The joey and mother are more likely to communicate.



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Name: _____

Draw a map of the zoo's kangaroo yard on the grid below. Show landmarks such as trees, fences, paths, buildings, etc.

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

Pick one kangaroo to observe at the zoo. For every 2 minutes, record the time. Write down the area of the grid in which your kangaroo is sitting in or standing. Describe what your kangaroo is doing and why.

Time	Area #	Observations