



PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn about the anatomy of kangaroos
- To understand what each body part does

GRADES

4th to 5th

MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Youtube link
- Optional:
 - Photos of kangaroos
 - Books about kangaroos

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.1
- SCI.4.3.3

RECOMMENDED

ASSESSMENT

- Grade worksheet based on completeness & accuracy
- Assess students on appropriateness of words used to describe kangaroos

Largest Marsupials in the World!

Practice your students' anatomy skills, while they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo kangaroos and their body parts. Anatomy is the study of parts and structures of a body. Ask these variety of questions to students to generate predictions before watching a short video or read about kangaroos!

- How tall do you think an eastern grey kangaroo is?
- How would you describe their body parts?
- What parts of the body do you notice is different from most mammals?
- What do you think what is the purpose of each body part?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZagFkqMYbYM&t=8s>

Have students complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Discuss the different body parts of kangaroos and their purpose. Their conservation status is listed as Least Concern, which means their population is stable, thanks to Australia's conservation actions! The conservation actions include protected sites, and management plans to ensure that kangaroos receive what they need to live long, healthy lives. Even though the bushfires occurred in Australia in 2020, which led to a decline in their population numbers, but you can help by donating to organizations providing care for the injured wildlife, especially kangaroos or to spread awareness to your friends and family about climate change and its effects on humans and animals! Be on the lookout for the kangaroo's anatomy 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!

Body Parts:

Ear: Their large ear provides excellent hearing, and they can also detect the vibrations of the motion of other kangaroos or predators. They can swivel their ears in all directions to pick up sounds in their surrounding environment.

Fur: The kangaroos' short fur is a fairly uniform medium grey color. Unlike humans, they cannot sweat, so they lick their chest, arms, and legs. There is a network of blood vessels in their forearms, which helps cool down their whole body. As the moisture dries on their fur, it takes away heat and cools the body.

Leg: Their long, powerful legs allow them to cover 20 feet or more in a single hop. They can reach a top speed up to 40 mph for short bursts, and they can travel long distances at 10-15 mph. They always move both hind legs together when moving, for they cannot move their hind legs independently.



Pouch: Only females have a pouch, where they raise their young. The pouch is almost like an expandable bag with an elastic drawstring on it. If the female has a joey, the pouch will open a little bit, so it is easier for the joey to get back after exploring.

Tail: The long muscular tail serves as a fifth limb for the kangaroos. They use the tail to balance themselves to travel or to stand up. The tail also assists with the movement of kangaroos when they need to move more slowly than hopping.

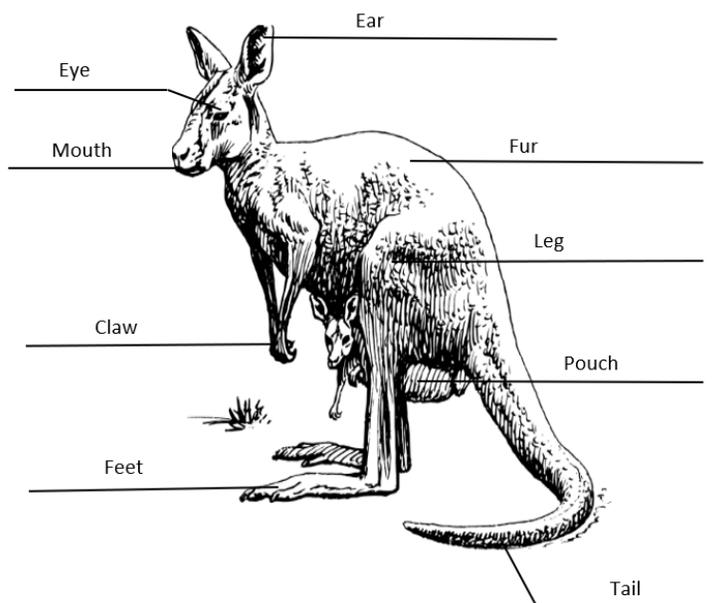
Feet: The middle toe on the hindfoot is long and strong and is used as a weapon in aggressive and defensive attacks. It also is used for cleaning their thick fur. The middle toe looks large because the two digits are fused together to form a "grooming comb."

Claw: They have five toes on their forepaws, similar to humans' hands, which they are used to hold food. They also use their forepaws and their tail to help move more slowly than hopping, hence, 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.

Mouth: Kangaroos are herbivores and grazers, and they love grazing on grass and other vegetation such as leaves, twigs, and bark of trees and shrubs. Like cows, sheep, and goats, they go through a process of regurgitating and re-chewing their food to break down their food further to stimulate digestion.

Eye: They have keen eyesight, but they can only respond to moving objects. The eyes give the animal a wide field of vision, which helps them identify predators in the wild. They have long, thick eyelashes that help protect their eyes from the sun's glare.

Answer Key:





Name: _____

Label each body parts of the kangaroo and write a description.

KEY				
Mouth	Feet	Ear	Claw	Leg
Tail	Fur	Pouch	Eye	

