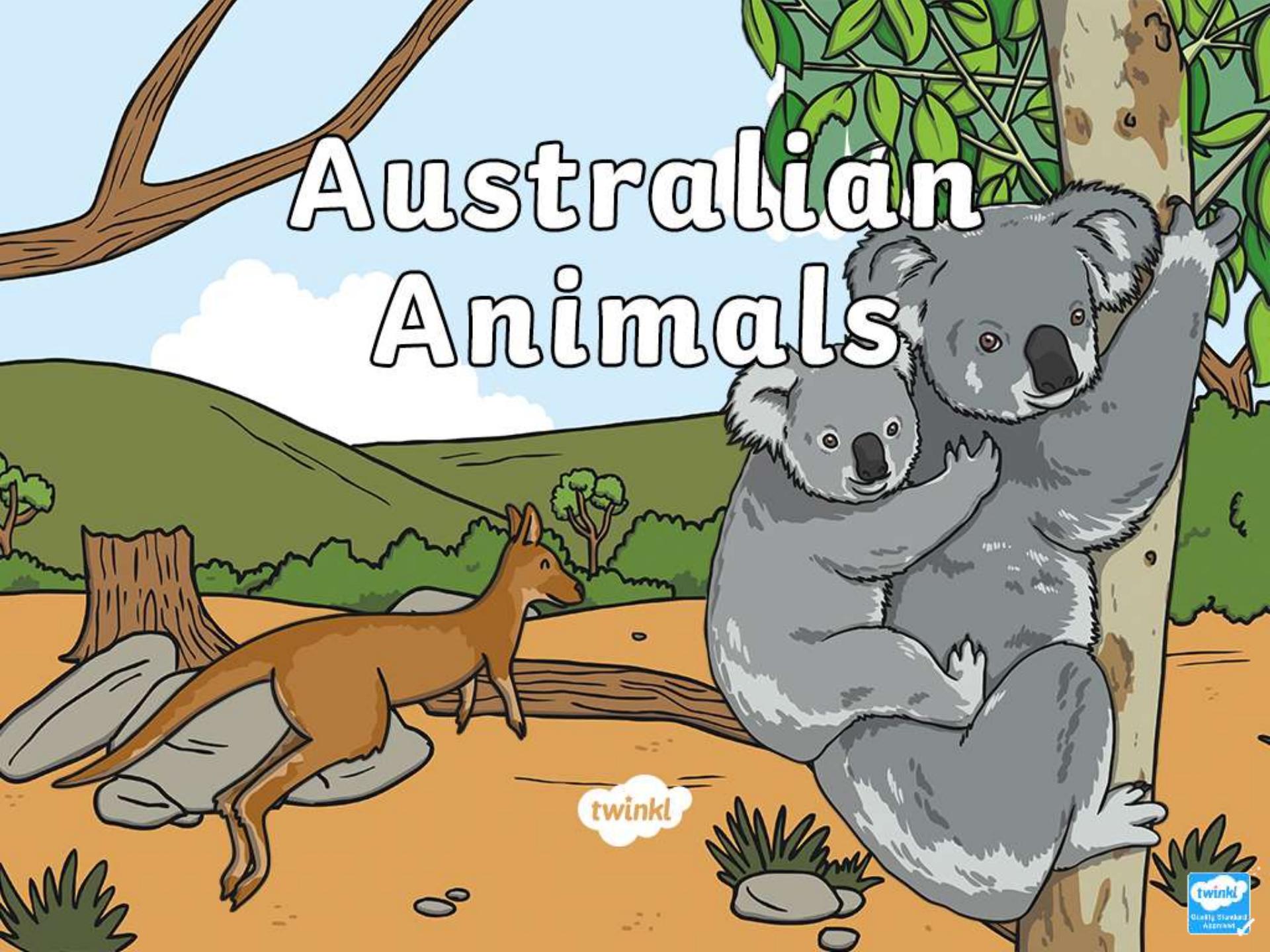


# Australian Animals



twinkl

## Australian Animals - what we have learnt.

### **Share the presentation.**

Information about each animal is given in two or three different formats, progressing from simple, to more detailed text. Read the texts together.

To create your own fact-file later, it would be helpful for you to make notes under the headings of things you need to find out:

- The **name** of your chosen animal.
- What it **looks like**: size; colour; number of legs. Does it have a tail? Does it have webbed feet? Does it have a pouch? Does it have fur, feathers, scales etc? Does it lay eggs, or have live babies? Any other important features?
- Where it **lives**: All the animals live in Australia, but from the information given, and maybe the pictures, you need to identify the type of habitat.
- What **food** the animal eats, and whether it is carnivore, herbivore or omnivore.
- Choose an extra interesting, '**wow**' **fact** from all the information. Some of the pages of the presentation include 'Did you know...? fact boxes, but you might choose a different fact from the main texts.

## Australian Animals.

More information can be found by sharing these optional resources:

**Australian-animal fact cards**

**Australian-animals-fact-files**

**Australian-Animals-platypuses-and-snakes-information**

# Kangaroo

Kangaroos are marsupials. Their babies are called joeys. Like koalas, kangaroos carry their babies in their pouches.



Kangaroos are also strong swimmers.

Kangaroos have very powerful legs. They use these legs to hop or walk around. Kangaroos can jump really high.



# Kangaroo

Kangaroos are **mammals** and belong to a group called **marsupials**.

This means that the mother carries her young in a pouch.

Kangaroos have large, strong legs with big feet. This makes them great jumpers!

They also have a long tail (to keep them balanced) and a small head.



Kangaroos live in groups called mobs.

They are **herbivores**. This means that they eat plants, leaves and different grasses.

# Kangaroo

A baby kangaroo is known as a **joey**.

The red kangaroo is the largest marsupial in the world.



## Did You Know?

Kangaroos cannot move backwards.

# Kangaroo

Kangaroos are marsupial mammals that are found in Australia including Tasmania. They are also found in New Guinea.

The kangaroo has large, powerful hind legs, large feet, a long muscly tail for balance, and a small head. Male kangaroos can be seen boxing when competing for the attention of a female.



Kangaroos are social animals that live in groups called 'mobs'. They are herbivores so they eat plants, leaves and different grasses.

Kangaroos can reach a weight of 90kg, and can hop at speeds of up to 60km/h.

A male kangaroo is known as a boomer, buck, jack, or old man. The female kangaroo is known as the doe, jill, or flyer. A baby kangaroo is known as a joey.

The Red Kangaroo is the largest marsupial in the world. It can leap as far as 8m and 3m high.

## Did You Know...?

Kangaroos cannot move backwards, and adult kangaroos can live for months without drinking anything at all.

# Echidna

The echidna can be found all over Australia and is the most common Australian mammal.

The echidna looks a bit like a hedgehog with a long, thin snout. It has very sharp spines (along its back and sides) as well as a long tongue, which they flick out to catch insects with.

When an echidna is scared, it curls up into a spiky ball, to protect itself from predators.



# Echidna

An echidna eats minibeasts, such as worms and ants. They use their sharp claws to break open rotting logs to collect tiny bugs.



**Did You Know?**  
Echidnas have no teeth.

## Echidna

The echidna is a highly adaptable creature that can be found throughout Australia. They are found in coastal forests, alpine meadows and deserts. The echidna has the widest distribution of any native Australian mammal.



The echidna has a skinny snout and a long flicking tongue which is perfect for catching insects. It also has very sharp spines, known as quills, along its back and sides.

When an echidna is threatened, it will curl

inwards leaving only its quills exposed. This is a form of protection from predators.

Termites and ants are what echidnas love to eat. They especially love eating beetle larvae which are a type of soil invertebrate. Their sharp claws are what help them to find termites as they often hide in rotting logs.



### Did You Know...?

Echidnas have no teeth.

# Emu

Emus are the second largest bird in the world (the ostrich is the biggest).

Although emus are birds and have wings, they cannot fly.

Emus use their wings to cool themselves down.

They can run really fast (sometimes as fast as a car at 30mph!)

Emus eat grass and insects, such as grasshoppers and beetles.



# Emu

The emu is the largest bird in Australia and the second largest bird in the world!

Emus have long necks, sharp beaks and small ears.

They have two sets of eyelids. One set is for blinking and the other is to keep the dust out.



They have three toes on each foot.

One toe on each foot has a long claw- this is used for fighting.

# Emu

Emus like to eat grains, flowers, berries, insects and anything else they can find.

Emus can live in flocks or pairs.



**Did You Know?**  
Emus cannot fly.

## Emu

The emu is Australia's largest bird and the world's second largest. It comes second to the ostrich.

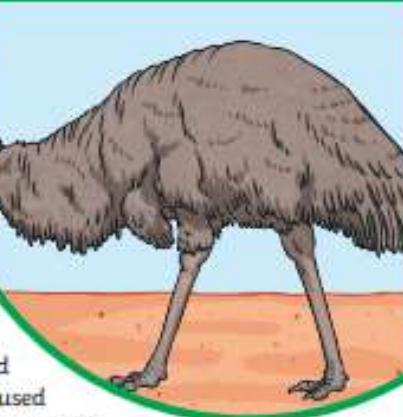
Emus are very unique in the way they look. They have long necks and very sharp beaks. Their ears are quite small and they have two sets of eyelids. One eyelid is used to keep the dust out while the other is used for blinking. Altogether they have six toes, three on each foot. On each foot there is a talon which is used for fighting and protecting themselves against predators. Emus have very soft light brown feathers. They are also known to grow between 1.5-2 metres in height and can weigh up to 60kg.

They are flightless birds.

Emus like to eat whatever they can find. However, they really enjoy grains, flowers and berries. They also like to eat insects and grubs which they find by digging around in the ground.

Emus like to eat a lot of food especially if there is a lot around them. When they eat lots, the food is stored as fat. They can then survive for longer periods as they go in search for more food.

Emus live in flocks or pairs.



### Did You Know...?

Males make a grunting sound like a pig and females make a loud booming sound.

# Wombat

Wombats are marsupials too. They are only found in Australia.

They are nocturnal, which means that they come out at night-time.



Wombats eat grasses, herbs, roots and bark.

Wombats like to dig. They live in large tunnels (burrows) underground. They have powerful claws and large front teeth. They have a backwards-facing pouch so they don't flick dirt on their babies when they are digging!



# Wombat

Wombats are only found in the wild in Australia. They are mammals and **marsupials**.

Wombats have short legs, a small head, wide feet and strong claws.

They are great at digging!

They live in underground dens called **burrows**. The burrows are made from roots of fallen trees, soil, leaves and rocks.



# Wombat

Wombats can be sandy coloured, brown, black or grey.

Wombats are **nocturnal**, which means they are awake at night and asleep during the day.

They go out at night time to feed on grass and roots.



## Did You Know?

A wombat's pouch is backwards.

## Wombat

Wombats are native only to Australia. They are marsupial mammals.

Wombats are small and look like a cross between a bear, a pig and a gopher. Their bodies are built for digging, with short legs, a compact head, short broad feet and strong claws.

There are two basic kinds of wombats, the bare-nosed wombat, and the hairy-nosed wombat.

Wombats are nocturnal grazers, which means they hunt for their food at night.



Wombats mainly eat grass and roots, and they live in large burrows up to 30 metres long. The burrows are made mainly from roots of fallen trees, compacted soil, leaves and rocks.

They are extremely strong and proficient diggers. Wombats can be anything from sandy coloured to brown or black, to grey. The average wombat is about 1 metre long and weighs about 25kg.

Wombats are generally solitary, which means they are unsociable and like to be alone.

### Did You Know...?

A wombat's pouch is backwards and their poop is cube-shaped.

# Possum

Possums are **marsupials**.

Most possums live in hollow tree trunks, but some build nests known as **dreys** in bushes or trees.

Possums are also **nocturnal**.



Possums are mainly **herbivores**. However, they have been known to eat insects and bird eggs. They eat eucalyptus and other leaves. They also love flowers and fruit.

# Possum

Most possums live alone, except when they have a young family. The ringtail possums tend to live in family groups of three or more.



## Did You Know?

Possums love eating nectar.

## Possum

There are 23 possum species in Australia. The most common species are the brushtail possum and the ringtail possum.

Most possums live in hollows of tall trees, while some build nests known as 'dreys' in bushes or trees.

Possums are nocturnal marsupials.

While possums are mainly herbivores, they have been known to eat insects and bird eggs. They mainly eat eucalyptus and other leaves, and they also love eating nectar, flowers and fruit.

Most possums are solitary animals, except when they are raising their young. The ringtail possums tend to live in family groups of three or more.



### Did You Know...?

Possums are native to Australia

# Koala

Koalas like to eat eucalyptus leaves.

They have very sharp claws which they use to climb trees.

Koalas have large noses which are either pink or black.

Baby koalas are called joeys. Joeys live in a pouch on their mummy's tummy until they are about six months old.

Koalas (sometimes called 'koala bears') are not actually bears. They are actually **marsupials** – the same type of animal as a kangaroo.



# Koala

Koalas are found in the wild in Australia. Although they are often called 'koala bears', they are not bears. They are actually **marsupials**, like wombats, possums and kangaroos.

A baby koala is called a **joeys**.

Joeys live in their mother's pouch for about six months.



# Koala

Koalas are good at climbing trees. They use the sharp claws on their front paws to hold on to the branches and to grip their food.

They are **herbivores** and their favourite tasty treats are eucalyptus leaves.



## Did You Know?

Koalas can sleep for up to 18 hours a day.

## Koala

Koalas are native to Australia. People still incorrectly refer to koalas as 'koala bears'. They are actually marsupials and are closely related to the wombat and kangaroo.

Koalas have sharp claws which they use to help them climb trees. They have five digits on each front paw, with two of them acting like thumbs. This helps them to hold firmly onto the branches and to grip their food. Their back paws are used as grooming paws.

A baby koala is called a 'joey'. Joeys live in their mother's pouch for around six months and will remain with them for another six months or so afterwards.

An adult koala can eat about half a kilogram to one kilogram of leaves each night.

Koalas are mostly nocturnal which means they are awake at night and asleep during the day.

Koalas sleep a lot during the day because they require a lot of energy to digest the toxic, low-nutrition diet that they eat. Sleeping is the best way to conserve their energy.



### Did You Know...?

Koalas sleep for around 18-20 hours a day.

# Platypus

Platypuses can only be found in Australia. They live in rivers and streams.



They have a duck bill (like a beak), a tail like a beaver and webbed feet.



Platypuses are one of only five mammals that lay eggs.

They come out to feed at night. They eat creatures like insects and worms.

# Platypus

Platypuses are mammals that live on land and in the water. They are only found in eastern Australia and Tasmania, in small rivers and streams.

They have a **bill** (or beak), a tail, fur and webbed feet.



Although they are mammals, platypuses lay eggs instead of having babies.

Platypuses are **nocturnal**. They close their eyes and ears when they dive underwater and dig up the river beds with their bills to find worms, insects and shrimp.

# Platypus

The platypus is an excellent swimmer. It can stay under water for around 30 seconds before coming up for air.



## Did You Know?

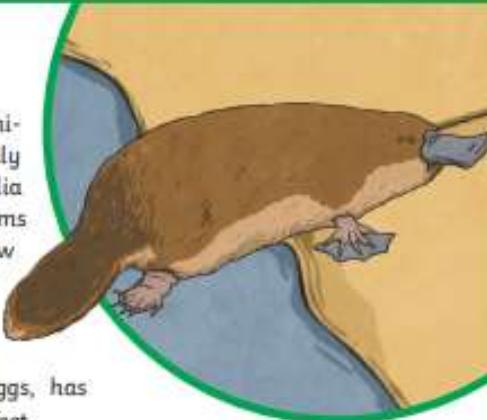
They are hunted by snakes, water rats, hawks, owls, eagles and sometimes crocodiles.

Photos courtesy of TheEggplant (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

## Platypus

The platypus is a semi-aquatic mammal that is only found in eastern Australia in small rivers and streams within Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

It is duck-billed, has a beaver-like tail, lays eggs, has otter-like fur and webbed feet.



Platypuses are monotremes which means that they **lay** eggs instead of giving birth.

Platypuses are nocturnal which means they come out at night, or at twilight to feed. They close their eyes and ears when under water. When they feed on worms, insects, and shrimp, they use their sense of electroreception and dig up the river beds with their bills.

The platypus is an excellent swimmer. It can stay under water for around 30 seconds before coming up for air. The average length of a male platypus is 50cm, and the average length for a female is 43cm. They can weigh from 1-2.4kg.

Their predators include snakes, water rats, hawks, owls, eagles and sometimes crocodiles.

### Did You Know...?

The platypus has been used as a mascot for national events in Australia and is featured on the Australian 20 cent coin.

# Kookaburra

Kookaburras have a loud call that sounds like a human laughing.

They are part of the kingfisher family.



Kookaburras have a long bill (beak) which can grow to 10cm long.

They live in forests and eat insects, small mammals, lizards and snakes.



## Australian Animals

### English + Science Activity

#### **Create a Fact - File**

- Copy or print out **English-Writing+Science-Activity-Animal-Fact-File**.
- Transfer the information from your notes onto the fact file sheet, remembering to write carefully, in full sentences.
- The following page shows how the fact file is set out, and guides you through what to write in each section.

# Amazing Australian Animals

What is your chosen animal?

## What They Look Like

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Where They Live

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Forest, desert, grassland etc?

Your animal(plural).

Mammal, bird, reptile etc?

(Eg: Koalas are mammals).

Your animal(plural).

Carnivore, herbivore, omnivore?

(Eg: Koalas are herbivores).

## What They Eat

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Did You Know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Include an extra interesting, 'wow' fact.



