

# ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

## Kangaroo

A kangaroo is an animal from Australia. There are four major types, or species, of kangaroos. Each species is found in different areas of Australia and are different sizes and colors.

Kangaroos move by hopping and jumping. They have large back legs and feet. They often use their strong tails to help them keep their balance. Kangaroos can travel great distances by hopping. They can also hop very quickly, up to 44 miles per hour.



*A mother kangaroo with a baby, called a joey, in her pouch*

A kangaroo mother carries her baby in a pocket, called a pouch, on her stomach. The baby kangaroo may stay in her mother's pouch for over a year.

Kangaroos only eat plants such as grass and shrubs. The plants often wear down the kangaroo's teeth. The kangaroo has special teeth, which move forward as they are worn down. Eventually, the teeth fall out and the kangaroo grows another set.

Kangaroos are shy and do not normally interact with humans. These popular animals are the national symbol for Australia.

### Kangaroo Facts

- Kangaroos are good swimmers.
- A group of kangaroos is called a mob, court or troop.
- Male kangaroos often play fight, which looks like they are boxing.
- The largest type of kangaroos can be over 6 feet tall and weight up to 200 pounds.



*A red kangaroo*

### Tell a Story



This little kangaroo is telling her big brother kangaroo a secret. Tell a story about what the secret is and what happens next.

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