

ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

Wombat

Wombats come from Australia, where they live in holes called burrows. They dig these burrows with their teeth and from feet. These burrows often have tunnels, leading to other burrows.

There are three types, or species, of wombats. Each species lives in a different part of Australia. One species, the northern hairy-nosed wombat, is an endangered species. There are only about 130 of these animals left in the wild. All species of wombats are protected under Australian law.



Wombats usually live alone. A mother wombat keeps her baby in a pouch, like a kangaroo or koala. The baby wombat stays in the pouch for about six to seven months. After it comes out of the pouch, it will stay with its mother for about another year.

Wombats usually come out of their burrows at night, although they can sometimes be seen in the daytime. They eat plants, usually grass, roots and bark from trees. Some of their teeth are long and sharp, so they can gnaw on the tough plant food.



Wombat Facts

- Wombats can run very fast, sometimes up to 25 miles per hour.
- The average weight for a wombat is between 44 and 77 pounds.
- Wombats are about 40 inches long.
- While wombats look cuddly, they can also bite and claw when they are afraid.

Tell a Story



This is a wombat burrow, or a hole where a wombat lives. Imagine that it is evening and the wombat is coming out of its hole. Write a story about what happens next.
