

STUDENT'S NAME Mark:/100

•READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY, CHECK THE VOCABULARY AND THEN DO THE ACTIVITIES.



What Australian mammal can leap 25 feet in one hop and move for short periods at 35 miles an hour? The red kangaroo. A full grown male stands as tall as a six foot person and weighs 200 pounds. This is slightly bigger than the grey kangaroo, making it the world's largest marsupial.

What's a marsupial? A mammal where the mother has a pouch for carrying , feeding and protecting her young.

While a red kangaroo may be the largest marsupial, the newborn baby is tiny, under an inch long. After a few months sleeping, nursing and growing in mom's stomach pouch, the young kangaroo (joey) begins to come out. But it hurries back to the pouch fast when frightened, hungry or cold. Eventually, the joey gets so big it hangs out of the pouch. Then, at eight months old, it stays out. But the joey remains close to mom until ready to live on its own.

The red kangaroo ranges throughout western and central Australia. Its range encompasses scrubland, grassland, and desert habitats. It typically inhabits open habitats with some trees for shade. Red kangaroos are capable of conserving enough water and selecting enough fresh vegetation to survive in an arid environment

Red kangaroos are good swimmers. However, they are best known for their hopping abilities. Their long, powerful hind legs have big feet. Kangaroos' legs cannot move independently of one another, so they must hop everywhere. They can reach speeds of over 56 km an hour and bound 8 metres in a single leap. Hopping moves them quickly over their grassy, shrubby and desert habitats. Meanwhile, a thick tail helps them balance and steer.

What do red kangaroos eat? Grass, leaves and other vegetation. And guess what - they often regurgitate food and chew their cud just like a cow. The red kangaroo's vegetarian diet provides much of its water. It can also go long periods without drinking. Staying in the shade, panting and limiting most activity to nighttime helps the red kangaroo conserve water and stay cool.

Red kangaroos travel together in groups called mobs. Mobs include both males and females, with one male being dominant. Males show their dominance by "boxing with other males. They balance on their tails and try pushing each other off balance with their forearms or by kicking their hind legs. This kicking ability, along with their sharp claws, can also be used by kangaroos to defend against Australia's wild dog, the dingo.

Glossary

Leap: jump high in the air

Pouch: bag or pocket of skin on an animal's stomach to keep their babies.

Hopping: moving in small jumps using both feet together.

Steer: move in a particular direction.

Hind legs: legs at the back of an animal's body.

1. Put the headings in the correct box. One of them is the title. (6 marks)

Social skills

World's Largest Marsupial

A warm and cosy means of transport

A kangaroo's diet

Where do they live?

Special skills

2. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Circle the correct answer. (10 marks)

Baby kangaroos are big, they are the world's largest marsupials. T / F

Baby kangaroos go inside their mother's pouch to feed. T / F

Kangaroos need to drink a lot of water very often. T / F

Male kangaroos can be aggressive towards other males. T / F

A baby kangaroo comes out of its mother's pouch for the first time
8 months after its born T / F

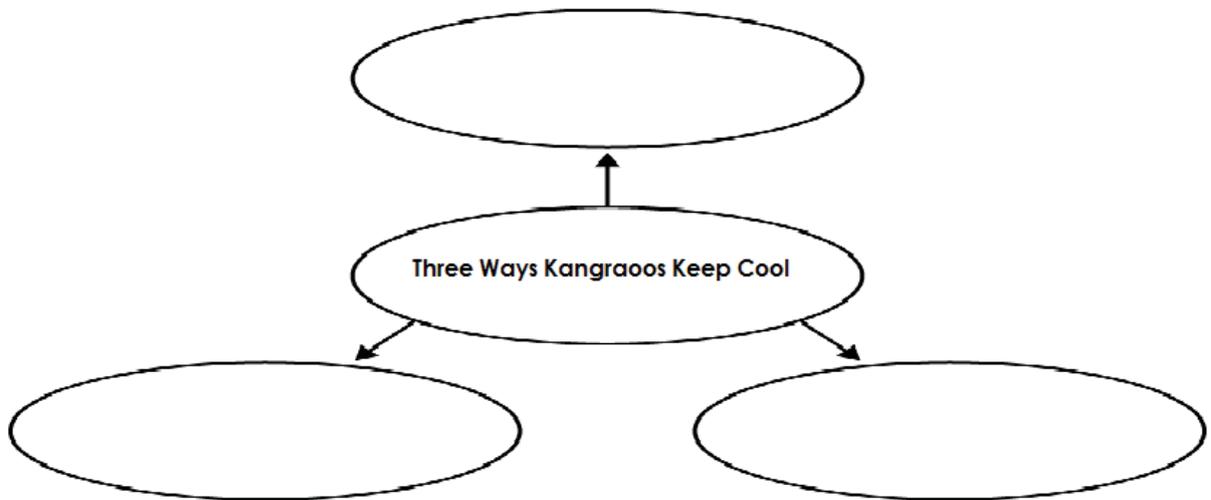
3. Red kangaroos are... (2 marks)

- a) Omnivores
- b) Carnivores
- c) Herbivores
- d) Insectivores

Explain why you chose the answer above. (6 marks)

- 4. A group of kangaroos is called a (3 marks)
- 5. A baby kangaroo is called a (3 marks)

6. Complete the graphic organizer. (6 marks)



7. Why do kangaroos hop instead of walking on four legs like other mammals? (12 marks)

8. What do they use their tails for? (12 marks)

Please turn over for the writing part of your exam.



WRITING. Use the images and facts below to write a short text about African lions. Use the text about kangaroos for inspiration. (40 marks)

Fast Facts

Type: Mammal

Diet: Carnivore

Average life span in the wild: 16 to 18 years

Weight: 300 to 500 lbs (120 to 226 kg)

Group name: Pride

Protection status: Endangered

Size relative to a 6-ft (2-m) man:



African Lion *Panthera leo*

