



The Kangaroo —

Australia's Powerful Jumper

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

The kangaroo is one of the most famous animals in the world, and it is found naturally on only one **continent**: Australia. Kangaroos are **native** to this land, which means they developed there and live nowhere else in the wild. Over millions of years, they have learned to **adapt** to a hot, dry **environment** where food and water can be hard to find. Today there are more than 40 kinds of kangaroos and their relatives, from tiny rat-kangaroos to the large red kangaroo, which can stand taller than a grown man.

What makes the kangaroo special is the way it moves. Instead of walking or running on four legs, a kangaroo travels by hopping on two **powerful** back legs. Huge **muscles** in its legs work like springs, storing energy with every bound and releasing it again. This lets a large kangaroo leap more than nine meters in a single jump and cover a great **distance** without getting tired. Its thick tail swings behind it to help the animal **balance** as it flies across the ground.

Living in the Australian outback is not easy. To **survive** the heat, kangaroos rest in the shade during the hottest hours and feed in the cool of the morning and evening. They eat mostly grasses and can go for long periods with very little water. Their bodies are built to **protect** them from the dry climate, and they even lick their front legs to cool down when temperatures rise.

Like all marsupials, female kangaroos carry their young in a pouch. A newborn joey is no bigger than a jellybean. It crawls into the safety of the pouch, where it drinks milk and continues to grow for several months. The mother's pouch helps **protect** the tiny joey from the harsh **environment** until it is strong enough to face the world outside.

Kangaroos are a proud symbol of Australia and even appear on the country's coat of arms. Yet they still depend on healthy grasslands to live. As cities grow and the climate changes, people must work to **protect** the wild spaces these remarkable animals need to **survive**.

A. Vocabulary

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. native _____ | a. the natural world; the surroundings in which living things exist |
| 2. continent _____ | b. the amount of space between two places |
| 3. adapt _____ | c. to continue to live, especially in difficult conditions |

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 4. environment ____ | d. one of the seven great land areas of the world, such as Australia or Africa |
| 5. powerful ____ | e. to keep safe from harm or danger |
| 6. muscle ____ | f. having great strength or force |
| 7. distance ____ | g. a body part that tightens and relaxes to produce movement |
| 8. balance ____ | h. to keep steady so as not to fall over |
| 9. survive ____ | i. belonging to a place naturally; originating in a particular region |
| 10. protect ____ | j. to change in order to fit a new situation or environment |



B. True or False

1. Kangaroos are native to Australia and live nowhere else in the wild. ____
2. There are only two kinds of kangaroos in the world. ____
3. Kangaroos move by hopping on two powerful back legs. ____
4. A large kangaroo can leap more than nine meters in a single jump. ____
5. Kangaroos use their tail to help them balance while hopping. ____
6. Kangaroos feed mostly during the hottest hours of the day. ____
7. A newborn joey is about the size of a jellybean. ____
8. Kangaroos need a lot of water and cannot survive dry weather. ____
9. Kangaroos appear on Australia's coat of arms. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: adapt, powerful, distance, survive, environment

1. Over millions of years, kangaroos have learned to _____ to a hot, dry land.
2. A kangaroo hops on two _____ back legs that work like springs.
3. A large kangaroo can cover a great _____ without getting tired.
4. To _____ the heat, kangaroos rest in the shade during the hottest hours.
5. The mother's pouch helps protect the joey from the harsh _____.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. Why do we say that kangaroos are native to Australia?
2. Explain how a kangaroo's legs and tail help it move.
3. How do kangaroos survive the heat and dryness of the outback?
4. Describe how a mother kangaroo cares for her newborn joey.
5. Why is it important to protect the wild spaces where kangaroos live?

E. Discussion Questions

1. The kangaroo is a national symbol of Australia. Why do you think countries choose certain animals to represent them?
2. Kangaroos have adapted to survive in a very harsh environment. What other animals have special ways of surviving difficult conditions?
3. As cities grow, wild animals lose their habitat. What do you think people should do to balance human needs with protecting wildlife?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-i, 2-d, 3-j, 4-a, 5-f, 6-g, 7-b, 8-h, 9-c, 10-e

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-adapt, 2-powerful, 3-distance, 4-survive, 5-environment

D. Comprehension:

1. Kangaroos are native to Australia because they developed on that continent and are not found living in the wild anywhere else.
2. A kangaroo hops on two powerful back legs whose huge muscles work like springs, while its thick tail swings behind it to help it balance.
3. They rest in the shade during the hottest hours, feed in the cool morning and evening, eat grasses, need little water, and lick their front legs to cool down.
4. A tiny newborn joey crawls into the mother's pouch, where it drinks milk and grows for several months, protected from the harsh environment.
5. Kangaroos depend on healthy grasslands, so as cities grow and the climate changes, protecting wild spaces ensures these animals can continue to survive.