

KANGAROO

Kangaroos are the only large animal that hops as its primary manner of locomotion.

The red kangaroo is the largest kangaroo.



The kangaroo is the national symbol of Australia. It is minted on Australia's coat of arms, coins, and postage stamps.

It's hearing is excellent.

LIFESPAN

up to 12 years in wild
20 years in captivity

Kangaroos are marsupials which means the female has a pouch where the newborn joey will stay for about 8 months. When it is born, it cannot see or hear.

A joey is born in 33 days. It is the size of a grain of rice.



There are four species of kangaroos. The antilopine kangaroo, the eastern gray kangaroo, the western gray kangaroo, and the red kangaroo are native to Australia.

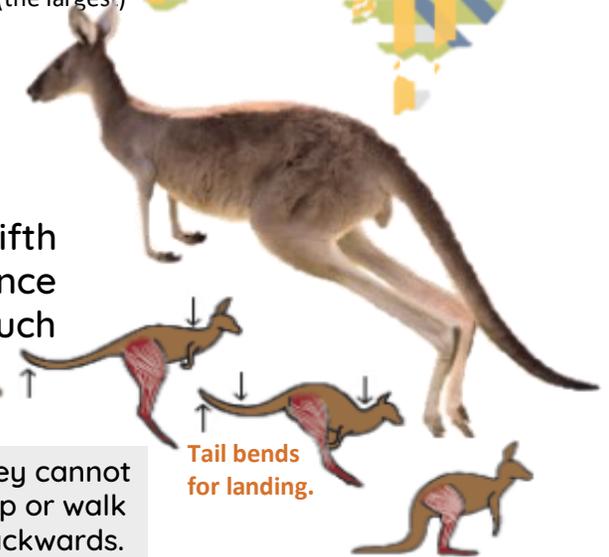
There are more kangaroos than people in Australia.

- Antilopine Kangaroo
- Eastern Gray Kangaroo
- Western Gray Kangaroo
- Red Kangaroo (the largest)



Locomotion

The tail is considered as a fifth limb, since it uses it to balance and support. They use it as much as the legs.



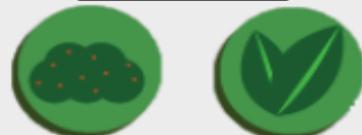
They cannot hop or walk backwards.

Tail bends for landing.

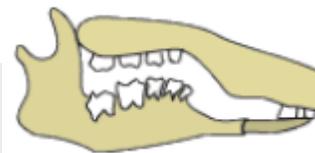
Tail goes up when jumping.

Kangaroos can move at speeds of 35 mph. They can jump 6 feet high and a distance of 25 feet in a single leap. The tendons of the kangaroos work like springs, they stretch when jumping and contract at the highest point of the jump. When landing, they extend again to drive the next jump using the tail for additional force.

Diet



Kangaroos are herbivores, so they feed on plants, grass, and insects. Its teeth have evolved to be able to cut the grass to the ground.



Kangaroo Jaw

Kangaroo Stomach



Ruminants chew their food, swallow it, and regurgitate, to return to chew it and swallow it again. This process can take hours.