

## Koalas and Kangaroos

The best known of Australia's animals are probably the koala and the kangaroo.

Koalas are **marsupials**, which are a group of animals that are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly. Koalas have thick fur and feed mainly on the leaves of



eucalyptus trees. They can eat around 4 hours a day and sleep for about 20 hours. Koalas are very picky, they only like eucalyptus tree leaves. They eat just 20 out of the 500 different types of eucalyptus and they only go for the crispiest and freshest ones. This kind of diet gives them only little energy to move. This is the reason for their **lazy** lifestyle. They do not drink any water and are awake only at nighttime. In fact, the word *koala* means “no water” in Australian language.

Australia is also a good habitat for kangaroos. There are about 50 different species of kangaroos. Some standing as tall as a man and others as small as a cat. The red kangaroo is the largest kangaroo. These animals are capable of hopping at great speed, sometimes more than 50 kilometers per hour. The baby kangaroo is called a joey and is 2 centimeters long when it is born. The babies are **hairless**, which means that they have no hair, until they grow bigger. The joey won't stop living in its mother's pouch until it is 10 months old. Male kangaroos sometimes wrestle or fight with each other and fight for dominance.

Read the text to decide whether the following statements are **True (T)** or **False (F)**.

- \_\_\_ 1. Marsupials are animals that carry their babies in a pouch inside the mother's belly.
- \_\_\_ 2. The baby kangaroo lives on the back of his mother.
- \_\_\_ 3. Koalas drink lots of water during the night.
- \_\_\_ 4. Joeys live in their mother's pouch for a month.
- \_\_\_ 5. Koalas sleep for about 20 hours a day.
- \_\_\_ 6. Koalas eat only special types of eucalyptus tree leaves.