

KOALA

Set 2



Scientific Name: *Phascolarctos cinereus*
Common Name: Koala

Koalas are herbivores that feed almost entirely on eucalyptus leaves. These leaves are low in nutrients and hard to digest, so koalas conserve energy by sleeping up to 20 hours a day.

Koalas face threats from habitat loss, land clearing, disease, dog attacks and vehicle collisions. Predators such as large pythons and goannas may take joeys.

Koalas are mostly solitary and spend their time resting. They climb skilfully, move between feeding trees, and carry their young in a pouch until they are old enough to ride on their mother's back.

Koalas are unique and important Australian animals, and protecting their forests is essential for their survival.

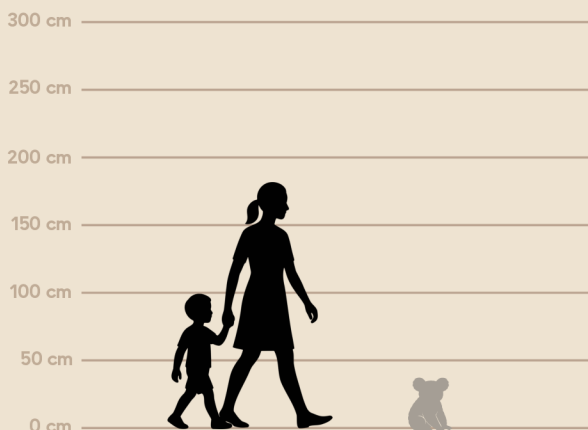
The Koala is one of Australia's most recognised marsupials and is closely associated with eucalyptus forests. Although sometimes called a "koala bear," it is not a bear but a marsupial.

Koalas have thick grey fur, large rounded ears, a pig-like nose and strong limbs for climbing. Their hands and feet have rough pads and sharp claws to help them grip branches.

Koalas live in eucalyptus forests and woodlands along eastern Australia. They depend on specific types of eucalyptus trees for food and shelter. Habitat clearing has significantly reduced their range in many areas.



HOW BIG ARE THEY?



DID YOU KNOW?

- A koala's digestive system removes toxins from eucalyptus leaves.
- Each koala has its own "home range" of trees it regularly visits.
- Joeys stay in their mother's pouch for about six months.

Gifted and Talented Teacher

