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What a Relief!

**Integrated maths and language activities for
relief teaching and general classroom use.**

Book 1



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Teachers' Notes

Overview:

The activities in this book are ideal for use by relief or support teachers needing interesting and stimulating activities for their students.

The theme of Australian native animals provides a relevant and appropriate background to the work students are required to complete, even in a relief teaching situation.

Notes on Worksheets

These worksheets are designed to enhance teaching by seeking to focus lessons, challenge students, reinforce the lesson taught and to bring an element of enjoyment to the process of learning.

Prior to being given the worksheet, students should be prepared by discussion and by working through similar examples to ensure that they know and appreciate the tasks set by the worksheets.

In this book

Mathematics Sheets

These are primarily problem solving, using the facts supplied in the information pages. However there is also some graph, measurement and arithmetic calculation work.

Grid Drawing

These visual perspective/ratio work sheets are designed to stimulate students with interesting and fun activities.

Cloze

These sheets require students to supply three possible words to fill the gaps. A word has been provided that can be used to add more interest and fun to the work by giving 'points' to those who managed to choose the word as one of theirs. This emphasizes that, in most cases, one word may be as good as other possibilities.

Facts Word Search

These are similar to traditional word search activities but the words to be found are only partially given within a paragraph about an Australian native animal. When the students find all the words, there are letters left over which make up a mystery sentence.

Teachers' Notes

Check It Out

Two almost identical stories are presented to students who are required to read them carefully to find the ten differences. The stories are fictitious. This exercise is best done by getting students to work in pairs, with each one having a different version of the story. That way they need to cooperate and read together to find the differences.

Word Grid

The first letter or two of words that students have to enter into a grid arrangement are given in a paragraph. When students enter all the words a set of coordinates that refers to the grid gives them a mystery sentence to solve.

Story Crossword

Like regular crosswords, however the words are blanks in humorous stories.

Comprehension

Information is provided for students to either decode the questions to answer them, or to fill in a data grid.

Facts Maze

Students work their way through a maze and pick up letters along the way. Underneath, students locate and copy some facts on particular native animals.

Section Quiz

At the conclusion of each section is a quiz. Students should be told at the start of the section that there will be a quiz. They will then have to take care of the sheets until they are needed. Students can either be set to learn the information prior to the quiz as homework, or they could be allowed to refer to the sheets during the quiz.

References

The Australian Encyclopaedia,

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Marsupials

Information Sheet (a)

A marsupial is a type of mammal that has a pouch. There are about 180 species of marsupials in Australia, most of which are found nowhere else in the world. When marsupials are born they are blind and hairless and need to make their way to the mother's pouch. The pouch provides a protected environment where the young stay attached to the teat until they have developed into a miniature adult. Marsupials have either forward or rear facing pouches, according to whether or not they have to dig for food and shelter.

Red kangaroos, which can reach heights of 2 metres, are the biggest marsupials. The smallest are the pilbara and marsupial mice, which are about 10.2 cm long (including tail). Marsupials are usually sorted into fourteen family groups, most of which are found in Australia while others are found in North and South America and New Guinea. The first marsupials appeared in North America approximately 80 million years ago. They migrated into South America 60 million years ago. 45 million years ago marsupials roamed into Europe, North Africa and Asia, however these groups rapidly became extinct. About 40 million years ago they reached Antarctica and Australia, which were attached to South America at that time.

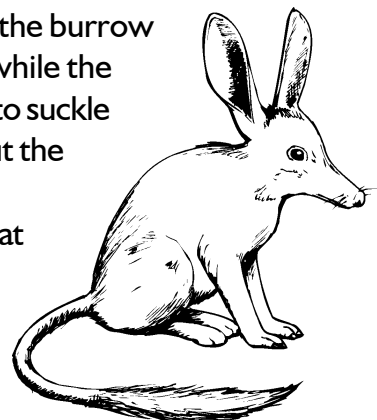
Bilby

The bilby once covered more than 70% of mainland Australia but it has

retreated to the desert areas of central Australia as the introduced rabbits, foxes and cats claimed its land. There used to be another, much smaller bilby species, known as the lesser bilby from central Australia that has become extinct since 1930. Like koalas, wombats and their close bandicoot relatives, bilbies have backward opening pouches. The young stay in the pouch for about 80 days. Bilbies become mature at six months of age, when they are old enough to forage for themselves.

In February 1996 the Earth Sanctuaries Bilby Breeding Program began at Yookamurra Earth Sanctuary, a 5000 hectare old-growth mallee sanctuary located in South Australia. In March, 2001 20 Bilbies were translocated from Yookamurra to Warrawong Earth Sanctuary. This marked the return of the bilby to the Adelaide Hills.

The young bilbies stay in the pouch for about 80 days and then they are kept in the burrow for two weeks while the mother returns to suckle them throughout the night. Bilbies become mature at six months of age when they are old enough to forage for themselves.



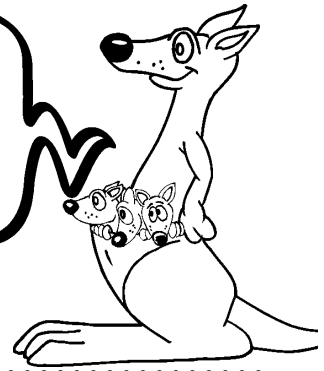
Mathematics Sheet 1



Calculators could be of use.

Read the 'Marsupials Information Sheet' (a) and (b), Pages 8 and 9.

Use the data to solve the following problems.



Working out space:

- 1) If it was not absurdly impossible how many eastern grey kangaroos standing one on top of the other would it take to reach a height of 1 km? (Assume that the kangaroos are not over the height that is stated.)

- 2) There are about 80 species of marsupials on the American continent. What percentage of the known number of marsupial species in Australia is this?

- 3) How many leap years have there been since the extinction of the lesser bilby?

- 4) If it could maintain its top speed for 15 minutes how far would an eastern grey kangaroo travel?

- 5) The area of mainland Australia is approximately 7,682,300 sq km. Over how much of this, in square kilometres, did the bilby roam during its peak?

- 6) Write the approximate area of mainland Australia in words.

- 7) From east to west Australia is approximately 3900 km. If it could maintain its top speed indefinitely and there were no barriers to hamper its progress, how long would it take an eastern grey kangaroo to cross the continent? (Give your answer in days and hours.)

- 8) Presuming an eastern grey kangaroo could bound at its maximum length indefinitely, how many hops would it take to cross Australia south to north, approximately 3100 km?

- 9) How many hours would a bilby spend in its mother's pouch?

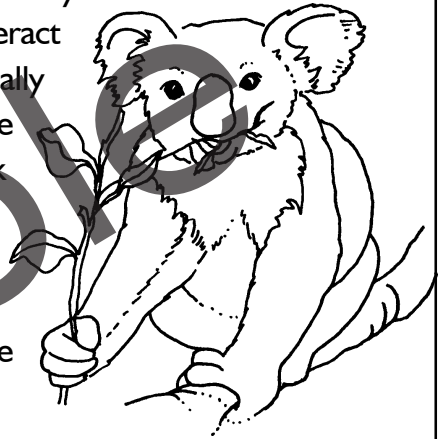
Koalas



Cloze Activity

Write three possible words that fit each gap. The suggested words need not be any more correct than the ones you choose, but just for fun see how many of the suggested ones you can guess.

Koalas have backward opening pouches, which makes sense as they are tree ❶ _____. They feed ❷ _____ on the foliage of eucalypts and as eucalypt leaves are high in water content koalas normally do not drink. However the leaves are ❸ _____ in nutrients, have high levels of toxins and contain many indigestible compounds. The toxins contained in the leaves are filtered and removed by the liver. At night koalas ❹ _____ to their favourite food source and often act aggressively to ❺ _____ koalas. Although their ranges may overlap, koalas are solitary and very antisocial ❻ _____. They interact with other koalas only during the summer mating seasons. Usually they are silent creatures but during the mating season, males give deep snorting ❼ _____. Dominant male koalas will attack ❽ _____ males, consequently male koalas can be easily recognised by ❾ _____ battle scars. Infant koalas are first seen peering from their mothers' pouches when they are about six months old. At the age of 12 months infant koalas become independent and ❿ _____ to form their own home ranges.



❶	_____	_____	_____
❷	_____	_____	_____
❸	_____	_____	_____
❹	_____	_____	_____
❺	_____	_____	_____
❻	_____	_____	_____
❼	_____	_____	_____
❽	_____	_____	_____
❾	_____	_____	_____
❿	_____	_____	_____

Greater Glider



Fact Word Search

Read about the greater glider below. Some of the key letters have been left out. You will have to find each word in the word search and colour the grid in. Write the letters in the spaces in the text

The greater glider is an **ARB** _ _ _ **AL** creature, which means that it lives in trees. It has an almost exclusive diet of **EUC** _ _ _ _ **US** leaves, like the **KO** _ _ **A** and the **RING** _ _ **IL** possum. It prefers the open forests more than the **RAIN** _ _ _ _ **STS**. It is a **NOC** _ _ _ _ **AL** and **SOL** _ _ _ **RY** animal, which means it is active during the night and is a loner. It is comfortable in trees where it is an **AG** _ **LE** climber, but on the ground it moves **CLUM** _ _ **LY** in a loping gait. A glide may cover a horizontal distance of up to a **HUN** _ _ **ED** metres and involve changes of direction of as much as **NIN** _ _ **Y** degrees.

The greater glider falls prey to the **DI** _ _ **O**, **F** _ **X** and the **POW** _ _ **FUL** owl. Unlike its relative, the noisy yellow-bellied glider, the greater glider is a **SIL** _ _ **T** animal. It is a **TER** _ _ _ _ **IAL** creature and closely guards its domain. When **BR** _ _ _ **ING** females tend to bear only one baby each year, which emerges from the **PO** _ _ **H** after four months and then may be carried on the mother's back for a further **TH** _ _ **E** months. They nest in old tree **HOL** _ _ **WS**. Other common names for the greater glider are: **DU** _ _ **Y** gliders, **SQU** _ _ _ **ELS** and the greater glider-**PO** _ _ **UM**.

Greater gliders are of course **MAR** _ _ _ _ **ALS** and others of their species are the **FEA** _ _ _ _ **TAIL**, the **YE** _ _ **OW** bellied and the **SU** _ **AR** gliders.

Hint

Letters can only be used once. Letters can follow each other vertically and horizontally but NOT diagonally to make up a word. Use the left over letters to find the mystery sentence. You will have 30 letters remaining.



E	U	C	A	A	L	A	E	R	O	L	Y	T	E	N
O	F	N	L	N	O	C	T	O	B	C	L	U	M	I
R	S	I	Y	L	I	G	U	F	R	N	O	G	S	N
E	O	A	P	E	G	A	R	O	A	F	U	N	I	R
S	L	R	T	U	S	R	N	X	F	U	L	I	L	T
T	I	D	N	U	H	H	A	E	R	Y	T	D	Y	E
S	T	R	B	H	A	C	L	W	I	O	T	I	R	R
L	A	E	R	O	A	U	N	O	K	R	D	S	O	P
Y	R	D	E	L	S	O	F	P	O	I	V	S	E	S
R	Y	S	E	L	L	P	E	L	A	A	L	O	G	U
Y	U	Q	D	O	A	T	A	S	L	A	T	M	A	R
K	I	G	I	W	I	H	L	I	A	T	H	E	R	Y
S	R	G	N	S	P	E	I	L	E	N	R	E	E	E
U	R	S	M	E	U	R	A	T	G	N	I	R	A	L
D	E	L	A	R	S	T	A	I	L	R	S	W	O	L

The mystery sentence is: