

Kangaroos



Study*ladder*

Kangaroos are *macropods*.

The word 'macropod' comes from Latin. It means 'big foot'.

macro = *big*

pod = *foot*

Kangaroos have strong legs and big feet. They use their tail to help them balance and jump.



Macropods are marsupials.
They are pouched mammals.

Marsupials give birth to undeveloped babies. They are tiny and hairless. After they are born they crawl into their mother's pouch where they continue to develop, feeding on milk.

Baby marsupials are called joeys.



There are many different species that belong to the macropod family.

The *red kangaroo* is the largest of the macropods.

A large mature male red kangaroo can stand as tall as 1.8 m.

They are called red kangaroos because they have a reddish tone to the fur on their backs.



The second largest macropods are the *grey kangaroos*.

There are two species of grey kangaroos:

- * The Eastern Grey Kangaroo
- * The Western Grey Kangaroo

These kangaroos can stand at about 1.3 m in height.

They have a furry grey appearance that ranges in colour, usually with a darker tip on the tail.





Tree Kangaroo

Some macropods live in difficult terrain and are well adapted to their surroundings.

* The Tree Kangaroo has strong forearms and sharp claws to assist with climbing. It can also wrap its tail around branches.

* The Rock Wallaby has shorter, wider feet that are padded to maximise their grip. They have a long tail that assists with balance when jumping.



Rock Wallaby

Some of the smallest macropods include:

* *The Tasmanian Pademelon*

This marsupial is found in Tasmania. It prefers the thick forested regions of the State.

The length of its head and body is 560 -630 mm. Its tail measures 320 - 417 mm.



*Tasmanian
Pademelon*

Some of the smallest macropods include:

* *The Quokka*

This marsupial is only found on Rottnest Island off the coast of Western Australia.

The length of its head and body is 300 - 350 mm. Its tail measures 235 - 310 mm.



Quokka

Some of the smallest macropods include:

* *The Potoroo*

The Musky Rat Kangaroo is the smallest macropod. It is an endangered marsupial that belongs to the *Potoroo* family. It only lives in the rainforests of North East Australia.

The length of its head and body is 210 - 340 mm. Its tail measures 65 - 123 mm.



Long Nosed Potoroo



Long Nosed Potoroo