



That Surprising Animal

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Power Builder

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What hops as fast as a car goes? And fights like a boxer? It's a kangaroo — or "roo." Its babies are called "joeys." They live in their mother's pocket.

Some kangaroos are as tall as a tall person. Some are small. They all have small heads. They have long tails. They can stand up. Their tails help them keep their balance.

Their front legs are short. Their front feet are small. But they have big back feet. Their strong back legs act like springs. Their back legs help the kangaroos jump far. They help them kick hard.

Kangaroos move together from place to place. They live in groups. A group of kangaroos is called a "mob."

Kangaroos eat grass and other plants. Dogs and foxes eat kangaroos. But it is hard to catch kangaroos. They fight back. They use their feet and their strong tails.

Do you want to see these surprising animals? You can find them in a zoo.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 One way that kangaroos are surprising is that they
 - a** eat grass and plants.
 - b** have legs that act like springs.
- 2 Kangaroos' strong back legs help them
 - a** keep their balance.
 - b** jump and kick.
- 3 A mob is a
 - a** mother kangaroo.
 - b** group of kangaroos.
- 4 Kangaroos are not like dogs or foxes because kangaroos
 - a** do not eat other animals.
 - b** can be found in a zoo.
- 5 A baby kangaroo does not jump because
 - a** it is kept in a zoo where it cannot jump.
 - b** its mother carries it in her pocket.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Words change spelling to mean more than one.

one mob → two mobs

Write each word below so that it means more than one.

- 1 tail
- 2 zoo
- 3 head
- 4 group
- 5 leg



LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Kangaroos have small _____ with pointed ears.
- 7 Kangaroos balance on their long _____.
- 8 Kangaroos have short front _____.
- 9 Kangaroos move from place to place in _____.
- 10 You can see kangaroos in many city _____.

THINK ABOUT IT

D The **sun** was as **hot** as **fire**.

This sentence helps you understand how hot the sun was. The phrase "as hot as fire" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the sun was very, very hot.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank.

- 1 A turtle is slow. A racehorse is fast. A kangaroo is as fast as a _____.
- 2 The ground is low. A mountain is high. A kangaroo seems to jump as _____ as a mountain.
- 3 A donkey is a hard kicker. A frog is a good jumper. A kangaroo can kick as hard as a _____.
- 4 Ice is cold. Toast is warm. Mothers keep their joeys as warm as _____.
- 5 A boxer is strong. A newborn baby is weak. A kangaroo's back legs are as _____ as a boxer.