

FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES FOR GRADE 1 CHAPERONES

THEME: What Do Koalas Need to Survive?

Dear Chaperone: Use these activities to add fun and focus as you guide your student group around the Zoo.

EXPLORE AND FIND

- **An exhibit with a koala.**

How do you know this is a koala? Describe what the koala looks like.

Can you name some koala body parts?

Was the koala easy or hard to find on the perch? What is the koala doing?

- **A koala perched in a tree.**

Why do you think koalas spend most of their time in trees?

What body parts help them live in trees?

What kind of shelter do you live in?

- **A koala eating.**

Is the koala eating plants or animals (meat)?

Where does the koala find its food?

What body parts do you think the koala uses to find and eat its food?



- **A koala drinking water.**

How can a koala get a drink high in the trees?

If you don't see a koala drinking, how else might it get moisture?

Are plants "juicy" foods? Which juicy plants do you like to eat?

Koala is an Aboriginal word meaning "no drink". This word describes the koala's behavior.

What one word would you use to describe yourself?

- **Another Australian animal.**

What do you think it eats? Where do you think it finds water to drink?

Where do you think this animal finds shelter?

Name some body parts that would help this animal survive.

Is this animal a bird, a reptile, or a mammal?

I wonder...

Why do people call koalas *bears*? What other animals look similar to the koala? You learned that koalas spend most of their time living in trees in the forest. What other animals live in trees?

Live in the forest? What would happen if the forests and trees disappeared? What can people do to help koalas and animals?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: GRADE 1

THEME: What Do Koalas Need to Survive?

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will use their observation skills.
2. Students will describe the physical attributes of a koala.
3. Students will discover what koalas need to survive in their habitat and compare this to the needs of other animals.
4. Students will investigate these concepts from the National Science Content Standards:
 - Science as Inquiry
 - The Characteristics of Organisms
 - Organisms and Their Environments

PREVISIT ACTIVITIES

- **Inquiry Lesson:** Ask the students what they know about koalas. Write down their answers. Ask the students what they would like to know about koalas. Write down their answers. Write this question on the board: *What do koalas need to survive?* Ask the students to “guess” some answers. Ask the students how they might find the answer to this question (e.g. books, visit to a zoo, watch a movie or a television show, ask an expert, etc.)
- Lead the class in making a list of the things students would want to pack if they were going on a weeklong camping trip. Then discuss needs vs. wants with the students. Which items on the list would students need to survive? Which items might they want but not necessarily need?
- Read the non-fiction book *A Koala is Not a Bear* by Hannelore Sotzek & Bobbie Kalman to your students. The koala is an amazing animal with many special body parts and behaviors. Ask the students: What do koalas need to survive? What do you need to survive?

POSTVISIT ACTIVITIES

- Ask students what they have learned about koalas. Review the list of what they wanted to know about koalas to see if their questions were answered. Review the question: *What do koalas need to survive?*
- Read Mem Fox’s book *Possum Magic* to your students. Discuss the types of unusual foods eaten throughout Australia. What types of foods do animals really eat? What do koalas eat? Are you a picky eater? What do you like to eat?
- What are your favorite foods? Have students collect pictures of food from magazines. Ask them to sort the foods into two different groups: foods they need and foods they want. On a bulletin board have the students classify these foods into different food groups: grains, fruits, vegetables, milk, fats/oils, sugars and sweets, meat and beans.
- Ask students to make a koala exhibit or habitat utilizing a shoebox diorama. Pose the following questions: Where will the koala sleep? What will the koala eat? Does the koala live with other animals, or do they like to live alone? What other animals might live nearby? What should they include so that their koala has everything he/she needs to survive?