

## FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES FOR GRADE 2 CHAPERONES

### THEME: The Koala Life Cycle

**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 many koalas are in the exhibit?
  - How big is the koala? How big can a koala get?
  - Can you find any differences between a male and a female?
- **A koala with a baby (called a joey).**
  - If you can't find a joey, where might it be resting?
  - What do you call animals that carry a baby in a pouch? (marsupials)
  - How do pouches protect the babies?
  - When the joey becomes too big for the pouch how do you think it will travel around the tree?
  - When you were a baby how did you travel around?
- **A koala perched in a tree.**
  - What adaptations do koalas have to help them live in the trees?
  - How do you think joeys learn to climb trees?
  - How did you learn to climb trees?
- **A koala eating.**
  - Does a koala eat plants or animals? What part of the plant does it eat?
  - Where does the koala find its food? What adaptations does the koala have for finding food?
  - What do mother koalas feed their babies?
  - How do joeys learn to eat leaves? How did you learn to eat some of the foods you like?
- **A koala making noise.**
  - Do koalas "talk" to each other?
  - How do they learn to communicate with each other?
  - How did you learn to talk? What was the first word you learned?
- **Another animal from Australia.**
  - Is this animal a marsupial? Does it have a joey?
  - How is this animal like the koala? How is it different?
  - Can you name some more marsupials?

#### I wonder...

If a koala mom could not take care of her joey, how would a zoo hand raise the baby?

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: GRADE 2

### THEME: The Koala Life Cycle

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Students will use their observation skills.
2. Students will describe the physical attributes of a koala.
3. Students will investigate these concepts from the National Science Content Standards:
  - Science as Inquiry
  - The Characteristics of Organisms
  - The Life Cycles 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 is the life cycle of the koala?* Ask the students to “guess” some answers. Ask the students how they might find the answers to this question (e.g. books, visit to a zoo, watch a movie or a television show, ask an expert, etc.).
- Read the non-fiction book **The Life Cycle of a Koala** by Bobbie Kalman & Heather Levigne to your students. The koala is an amazing animal with many special body parts and behaviors. Ask the students to point out similarities and differences between the koala life cycle and their life cycle.
- Establish with your students that we (people, humans) are mammals like koalas. Review mammal characteristics (hair, warm blood, breathe air, vertebrate, live-birth, produce milk). How are koalas different than humans? Koalas are marsupials. What does that mean? Were you raised in a pouch?
- Ask you students these “brainstorming” questions and have them share their answers: Do you look the same today as when you were a baby? How have you changed? What can you do today that you couldn’t do when you were little? How did you learn those things? What do you think it means to be a “grown-up”? Do all animals grow up the same? How do you think koalas grow up? What do you think a joey learns from his mother?

#### 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 is the life cycle of the koala?*
- Chart a joey’s growth! Cut green construction paper into eucalyptus leaves. Students will copy the following information onto their leaves and glue them onto poster paper in chronological order:
  1. *A baby koala is called a joey.*
  2. *Joeys are born after a 34-day gestation.*
  3. *Joey stays safe in mom’s pouch drinking milk for its’ first 6 months.*
  4. *Joey will leave the pouch, and ride on mom’s back until it is a year old.*
  5. *Joey will stay with mom until it is about two years old.*