



AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE



AN ENGLISH PROJECT BY 4AB AND 4D
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Journey of the Coastal Kooris by Ron Fötter
Authentic Australian Aboriginal art @TobwabbasArt

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ❖ *Bird eating tarantula* by Patrick Zehetleitner
- ❖ *Blue-ringed octopus* by Josefine Leitner
- ❖ *Box jellyfish* by Felix Weilguny
- ❖ *Bull shark* by Niklas Puchner
- ❖ *Cassowary* by Tobias Pflügler
- ❖ *Clownfish* by Ilvie Müller
- ❖ *Coastal taipan* by Nico Rath
- ❖ *Cockatoo* by Nora Wiesinger
- ❖ *Cone snail* by Verena Haghofer
- ❖ *Death adder* by Maximilian Kohlberger
- ❖ *Dingo* by Laura Sklenicka
- ❖ *Echidna* by Pascal Wilthan
- ❖ *Emu* by Hossain Jafari
- ❖ *Eastern brown snake* by Lukas Grüner
- ❖ *Gouldian Finch* by Zührenaz Emrebas
- ❖ *Irukandji jellyfish* by Paul Schreiner
- ❖ *Koala* by Flora Schwaiger
- ❖ *Kookaburra* by Svenja Weberberger
- ❖ *Leafy seadragon* by Jana Klopff
- ❖ *Numbat* by Ilia Flautner
- ❖ *Platypus* by Laura Gahleitner
- ❖ *Quokka* by Patrick Heumader
- ❖ *Quoll* by Sonja Lengauer
- ❖ *Redback spider* by Luisa Broda
- ❖ *Red kangaroo* by Magdalena Schatzl
- ❖ *Saltwater crocodile* by Anja Jungwirth
- ❖ *Sydney funnel-web spider* by Julius Traubenek
- ❖ *Thorny devil* by Sarah Pötscher
- ❖ *Tiger shark* by Jana Kolacek
- ❖ *Trapdoor spider* by Manuel Richler
- ❖ *Tree-kangaroo* by Pia Zwettler
- ❖ *Wallaby* by Letizia Matzinger
- ❖ *Wombat* by Kilian Ganglberger
- ❖ *Woylie* by Balduin Grill



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BIRD EATING TARANTULA

by Patrick Zehetleitner

English name: *Bird eating tarantula*

German name: *Vogelspinne*



The bird eating tarantula is a very well-known spider breed which is very **hairy** all over its body. The hairs are used to feel whatever is next to it, for example, prey. To be honest, I don't like spiders at all, but I have chosen this species because it's so famous. It bears its name for good reason, as it **can eat a whole bird**. However, the bird eating tarantula does not hunt birds specifically. Normally, it feeds on **insects, smaller spiders, worms, and small**

vertebrates (*Wirbeltiere*) like **bird chicks** and **little mammals**. It hunts mostly at night, so it is a **nocturnal** creature. The spider has **fangs** (*Giftzähne*), but their **venom** is **harmless** to people, and it looks way scarier than it is.

The Goliath bird eater is the **largest spider** in the world and might be the largest spider ever alive. Its **legs** measure **28 cm** and its body is **12 cm** long. Depending on its size, its weight is something around **170 g**. This spider **makes holes in the ground** and hides there when it gets hot. Another interesting fact is that it **does not make nets** like other spiders, it waits until its prey is in the right position to be killed.



Tarantulas are called "Theraphosidae" in Latin. The **lifespan** of a bird eating tarantula is around **40 years** and its skin colour is **brown**. This spider is quite a **strong** creature, but nevertheless it has some enemies such as spider wasps, large birds and the enemy of all animals, the human.

Sources:

[11 Goliath Birdeater Tarantula Facts - Fact Animal](#)

[Goliath birdeater spider - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS

by *Josefine Leitner*

English name: *Blue-ringed Octopus*

German name: *Blauringkrake*



I have chosen the **blue-ringed octopus** because I think it is a very interesting animal. In my opinion it is fascinating how its **skin turns yellow** and **blue rings appear** when it is attacked.

Some animals, like the poisonous blue-ringed octopus, can communicate through their colour-changing skin. And those who see its vivid blue rings should heed those warnings. The blue-ringed octopus is the **most venomous octopus** in the world. This small creature lives in **warm, shallow reefs** off the coast of Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines. It has a **lifespan** of about **two years**.

The blue-ringed octopus has distinctive **blue rings** on its body and on its eight arms. This is its warning coloration, which it shows when it is attacked. The full **warning display** is bright yellow with blue rings or lines.

According to the Ocean Conservancy, despite their compact **12-to-20-centimeter** size, the blue-ringed octopus carries **enough venom** to **kill 26 adult humans** within minutes. Their bites are **tiny** and often **painless**, with many victims not realizing they have been **envenomated** (*vergiftet*) until respiratory depression and



paralysis (*Lähmung*) start to set in. No blue-ringed octopus **antivenom** (*Gegengift*) is available yet, making it one of the **deadliest animals** in the ocean.

It eats **crabs, shrimp, and small fish**. It hides in the reef, then catches prey with its arms, bites it with its tough beak, and kills it with its poison.

Sources:

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue-ringed_octopus

https://kids.kiddle.co/Blue-ringed_octopus

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/blue-ringed-octopus-video>

BOX JELLYFISH

by Felix Weilguny

English name: *Box jellyfish*

German name: *Würfelqualle*



I have chosen the box jellyfish because I once encountered one in the sea and I think it's a very beautiful animal. The box jellyfish can be up to **30 cm long** but the **tentacles** can reach up to **3 metres!** As it is so small you often can't even see it and since it can also be found in the shallow parts of the sea it can attack

you very easily. The box jellyfish is the most poisonous jellyfish in the world and if it stings you, you can **die within two to five minutes**. The box jellyfish is usually seen from July to August, which is the time most of the people go swimming. The box jellyfish only lives for about **9 months**, whereas others species of jellyfish can reach a lifespan of several years before they die.

The jellyfish has its origin in Australia and since 1886 around 64 people have died because of it. A fully-grown box jellyfish could easily **kill 60 people**, which is just crazy to me! In case you get stung by a box jellyfish you are likely to survive if you **put vinegar** (*Essig*) on the wound and **go to hospital immediately**. Chances of



surviving are low if you are far off the beach, so always watch out for this tiny little creature when you go swimming or stroll along the beaches of Australia.

The box jellyfish's diet contains **small fish, shrimps, worms and fish eggs**. With its tentacles the jellyfish **paralyzes** (*lähmen*) its victims and then swallows them within a few minutes. Another interesting fact is that the box jellyfish can reach a **speed of up to 7 metres per second**, which makes it faster than Olympic swimmers!

Sources:

[Box jellyfish | Size, Habitat, Venom, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[Box jellyfish - Wikipedia](#)

[Box Jellyfish | National Geographic](#)

BULL SHARK

by *Niklas Puchner*

English name: *Bull shark*

German name: *Bullenhai*



I have chosen the bull shark because I think it's a very dangerous and creepy-looking creature and it ranks among the most famous sharks in Australia.

The bull shark or Zambezi shark can grow **up to 3.5 metres** but the average size of

a bull shark is about 2.5 metres and it typically weighs about **130 kilograms**. The bull shark is usually found in **warm and shallow waters** along coasts and in rivers. It is known for its **aggressive** manner.

Bull sharks are blue and white and their **life expectancy** is **12-18 years**. A shark like this usually hunts **fish** but sometimes they also attack humans, especially when they mistake them for animal prey. This happened 69 times in the year 2023 but luckily only 10 of them were lethal (*tödlich*).



Bull sharks are very **territorial** and they will attack anything that gets into their environment and seems suspicious. All in all, the bull shark is the **third most dangerous shark** after the Great white shark and the Tiger shark.

Sources:

[Bull Shark | National Geographic](#)

[Bull shark - Wikipedia](#)

[Bull Shark - Animal Corner](#)

CASSOWARY

by Tobias Pflügler

English name: *Cassowary*

German name: *Kasuar*



I have chosen the cassowary because it's a very **interesting-looking** and **unusual** bird which lives in the **tropic rain forest**. The cassowary is a kind of bird which cannot fly, and it is also one of the biggest birds all over the world. Birds that are flightless are called "**ratite**" (*Laufvogel*).

Cassowaries become very **aggressive** around people and sometimes they attack humans. That's the reason why it's difficult for explorers to find out more about this fascinating kind of bird.

There are three types of cassowaries alive:

- **Southern cassowary** (which is the biggest forest bird in the world and can grow to 2 metres and weigh 70 kilograms)
- **Northern cassowary**
- **Mountain cassowary**

The birds haven't got any feathers on their throat. Their necks are **brightly coloured** in red, blue, purple and yellow. Their feathering is usually black or grey.



The Southern cassowary has got two **wattles** (*Kehllappen*), the Northern has one and the Mountain cassowary hasn't got a wattle. They have got **three toes** on every foot with **sharp claws**. Their claws can hurt or kill their enemies. Apart from humans, however, they have no natural enemies in Australia.

Cassowaries mainly feed on **fruits** that they can find on the ground. They also pit **mushrooms, frogs, snakes, insects** and other **tiny animals**. Like other **ratites** (*Laufvögel*) they **swallow stones** so that their food gets shredded.

Female cassowaries lay **three to five eggs** into a nest. The eggs are very big and weigh 600 grams. After laying down the eggs the female cassowary leaves the nest, and the male **protects** and **defends** the **nest**. A few hours after the chicks hatch, they can run, and they wear **bright brown feathers**. They can live up to **20 years** in the wild.

Sources:

[Cassowary - Einfache englische Wikipedia, die freie Enzyklopädie](#)

[Cassowary | Description, Size, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[Kasuar \(nationalgeographic.com\)](#)

CLOWN FISH

by Ilvie Müller

English name: *Clownfish*

German name: *Clownfisch*



I have chosen the clown fish because it is a **small** and **colourful** fish. The basic colour of the body is **orange-red**, and can vary in different shades from yellow to dark red. There are three white stripes on the back and sides of the fish.

The clown fish is a kind of fish whose habitat (*Lebensraum*) is usually found on **coral reefs**. Clown fish mostly live in the **Indian** and **Pacific Ocean**, from the north-west of Australia to the coast of South East Asia as far north as Japan.

Normally, they live together with other animals, for instance the sea anemone which is like an underwater plant. Clown fish **never stray far** (*sich entfernen*) from **"their" sea anemone**. In fact, some kinds of clown fish can grow up and reach **18 centimetres** and the smaller ones only grow **10 centimetres**.



Besides they mainly **feed on** (*sich ernähren von*) **plankton** but as well **algae** (*Algen*), **molluscs** (*Weichtiere*) and **small crustaceans** (*kleine Krebstiere*). What is noticeable is that a clown fish moves very **hectically** (*hektisch*) and quickly.

Another interesting fact is that clown fish **change their gender** in the course of their lives. They are first male and produce male germ cells. Later they change their gender and become females that produce **egg cells** (*Eizellen*).

Clown fish are one of the most popular coral fish in saltwater aquariums. Many species have been kept in **aquacultures** (*Aquakulturen*) for a long time and are known as popular aquarium fish all over the world.

Sources:

[Simple English Wikipedia - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[Clownfish Facts & Information Guide - American Oceans](#)

[Clownfish Facts - Great Barrier Reef Foundation - Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#)

COCKATOO

by *Nora Wiesinger*

English name: *Cockatoo*

German name: *Kakadu*



I have chosen the cockatoo because it is a breathtaking and beautiful creature. I think it has such a **unique look** and is a really interesting bird. If you want to know more about this animal read on!

Cockatoos can be recognised by their characteristic **crest** (*Schopf*) and curved **beak** (*Schnabel*). Their **plumage**

(*Gefieder*) is generally less colourful than that of other parrots, but I still believe that each specimen (*Exemplar*) is unique. The plumage is usually **white, grey** or **black** and often has **colourful features** on the crest, cheeks or tail.

Cockatoos prefer to **eat seeds, tubers** (*Pflanzenknollen*), **fruit, flowers** and **insects**. They also have predators, of course. For example, the White-bellied sea eagle is one of their greatest enemies. But cockatoos are usually safe because they **live in flocks** (*Herden*).



Most cockatoos have a very **loud voice**. They can produce a lot of sounds, they imitate sounds like a telephone ringing for example, but they cannot speak like us. They learn a lot from humans. The way they grip things with their feet is similar to our hands or the dancing that cockatoos sometimes do also resembles our movements.

If you want to know more about this fascinating bird, check out the website below!

Source:

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockatoo>

CONE SNAIL

by Verena Haghofer

English name: *Cone snail*

German name: *Kegelschnecke*



I have chosen the cone snail because I think it is an interesting animal. Cone snails (*Conus mediterraneus*) are among the **most venomous** creatures on earth. They are a type of **marine snail** (*Meeresschnecken*) known for their **cone-shaped** (*kegelförmig*) shells. They live mainly

in **tropical seas** and are **predatory** (*räuberisch*).

They hunt other small animals, like **crabs**, **fish** and even other **marine snails**. They have a venomous tooth which looks like a **harpoon** (*Harpune*) tooth, to kill their **prey** (*Beute*). The venom **paralyzes** (*lähmen*) the victims before the snail eats them. There are about 1000 species of cone snails, and some of them can be **dangerous to humans**. The most toxic ones are the Textile, Geographic, and Tulip snails.



Attacks on humans usually **occur** (*auftreten*) when a cone snail is either **stepped on** in the ocean or **picked up** from the water or the beach. Cone snails have killed almost 30 people officially. However, this is just the number of known deaths. The actual number is believed to be much higher. The venom from one sting from a large cone snail **can kill 15 people**. But the whole venom in one snail can kill about 700 people!

Cone snails have very **beautiful shells**, often decorated with **different colours and patterns**. That's why some people collect the shells, but this can end fatally.

Sources:

[Cone Snail Animal Facts - A-Z Animals \(a-z-animals.com\)](http://a-z-animals.com)

[Cone Snails \(General Description\) | Online Learning Center | Aquarium of the Pacific \(aquariumofpacific.org\)](http://aquariumofpacific.org)

[Cone snail - Wikipedia](http://wikipedia.org)

COASTAL TAIPAN

by Nico Rath

English name: *Coastal taipan*

German name: *Küstentaipan*



The coastal taipan can grow up to **2.9 meters**, but most snakes grow between 1.8 and 2.4 meters in length. Males are bigger than females. The colour of the skin is **yellowish** (*gelblich*), **reddish** (*rötlich*), **dark brown** or almost black. It

can change its skin colour. In winter it is darker, so it is easier to warm itself. In summer it **fades** (*verblasen*) to cool down faster. It has a **rectangular-shaped** (*rechteckig-geformt*) head.

The coastal taipan lives in warm and wet **tropical coastal regions** (*tropische Küstenregionen*). It **eats bandicoots** (*Nasenbeutler*), **mice, rats, birds,** and **mammals** (*Säugetiere*). Its tactic



(*Taktik*) is to catch the animal, bite it and then let it go. Then it follows the **scent trail** (*Geruchsspur*) with its flickering tongue. After a while, the animal dies because of the poison from the snake and then the snake can go for it. If the snake didn't stay clear of it in the first place, the victim could bite the snake, and both would die.

The snake is very dangerous for humans and **ranks among the most poisonous snakes** in the world. So it should be avoided because if threatened, it will bite you within milliseconds. Then you must find a doctor quickly or you could die. If you're lucky and the snake notices you in time, it will get away from you and won't attack.

Sources:

[Coastal Taipan - The Australian Museum](#)

[The Coastal Taipan: A Look at the World's Most Venomous Snake - Wild Explained](#)

[Coastal taipan - Australian Geographic](#)

DEATH ADDER

by *Maxi Kohlberger*

English name: *Death adder*

German name: *Todesotter*



I have chosen the death adder because I heard it is one of the **most dangerous snakes** in the world. You can find this species in the **east** and in the **north** of Australia. The name "death adder" might sound scary, and it is indeed! But it's not because

the snake wants to hurt people. It's just the way it is.

The death adder is rather small compared to other deadly snakes, but don't let its size fool you. The snake is only about **2 feet** long, but it's **incredibly venomous**. Its venom is so strong that the death adder can **kill a person** in just a few hours if they don't get treatment quickly. One of the things



that make the death adder dangerous is its **camouflage** (*Tarnung*). It has a pattern on its skin that helps it blend into its surroundings (*Umfeld*). This makes it hard to see, and people might accidentally **step on it** without even knowing it's there.

The death adder mostly eats small animals like **mice**, **birds**, and **lizards**. It's a **master at hunting**. It stays very still, waiting for its prey to come close, and then strikes lightning-fast. Its bite is **quick and deadly**. People who live in areas where death adders are found need to be careful. They should always watch where they're walking, especially in **tall grass** or **bushy areas** where the snake might be hiding. If someone gets bitten by a death adder, they need to **get medical help** right away.

Sources:

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/reptiles/common-death-adder/>

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todesotter>

DINGO

by Laura Sklenicka

English name: *Dingo*

German name: *Australischer Windhund*



I have chosen the dingo because it's an interesting and flexible **predator** (*Raubtier*). It is an Australian wild dog that is similar to a fox. Dingoes are **medium-sized** animals with **thin bodies** and **yellow-brown fur**. They can reach a height of 124 cm and weigh 13 to 20 kg. They have a bushy tail and **pointed** (*spitz*) **ears** which make them easy to spot. Although they're called wild dogs, dingoes are wild members of the dog family that were **tamed** (*gezähmt*) in Australia thousands of years ago. They are commonly found in Australia and Oceania.



Dingoes can live in many different places including **forests, deserts, fields,** and even **cities**. They are great hunters and mostly eat small animals like **birds, reptiles,** and sometimes **bugs**. They usually hunt alone or in small groups. Two of the most dangerous enemies of a dingo are jackals and snakes. They are **nocturnal** animals, which means they are **active at night**. Dingoes aren't dangerous, but some people worry about them because they attack farm animals from time to time.

Even though they have **adapted well** (*gut angepasst*), dingoes still face many problems. Things like losing their homes, getting sick, and being controlled by humans make life hard for them. Some **species** (*Arten*) of dingoes are **threatened with extinction** (*vom Aussterben bedroht*). That's why it's important to protect them and make sure they won't die out.

Sources:

[Dingo | Steckbrief | Tierlexikon \(biologie-schule.de\)](#)

[Dingo – biologie-seite.de](#)

[Dingo - Fakten, Ernährung, Lebensraum & Bilder auf Animalia.bio](#)

EASTERN BROWN SNAKE

by *Lukas Grüner*

English name: *Eastern brown snake*

German name: *Östliche Braunschlange*



I have chosen the Eastern brown snake because snakes are one of my favourite animals.

The Eastern brown snake lives throughout the **eastern half of Australia**. It is almost only **brown** but, on its tummy, you can see some **white or yellow spots**. The **tongue** of these snakes is **dark**. It

can grow up to **2 metres** and the longest Eastern brown snake that was seen was **2.4 metres** long and that's not common for this snake. It can also weigh up to **4 kilograms**. It can **crawl very fast** and reach up to **10 kilometres per hour**.

The fangs of the Eastern brown snake are quite **small** compared to other Australian snakes. It can live up to **15 years**. It is the second most **dangerous** and **poisonous** snake in Australia. The venom of the Eastern brown snake is so poisonous that it is one of the **most effective** (*wirksam*) **poisons** that is known about snakes. The Eastern brown snake is very dangerous because it is highly **aggressive**, and that's why it is responsible for about **60 per cent of human snake-bite deaths** in Australia.



Its favourite food are mammals like **rabbits, birds, eggs** or they sometimes eat **other snakes**. The female Eastern brown snake can lay up to **35 eggs**, each weighing (*wiegen*) 8 grams. Related species are the Black Mamba or the King Cobra.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_brown_snake

<https://animalia.bio/eastern-brown-snake>

<https://www.tierwissen.net/tiere/oestliche-braunschlange/>

ECHIDNA

by *Pascal Wilthan*

English name: *Echidna*

German name: *Ameisenigel*



Echidnas are really cool animals! They live in Australia and they're half **porcupine** (*Stachelschwein*), half **anteater** (*Ameisenbär*). They have **spiky hair** all over their bodies, which helps protect them from danger.

One highly interesting thing about echidnas is how they eat. They use their **long snouts** to sniff out **ants and termites**, which are their favourite foods. And guess what? They have a **long, sticky tongue** to catch those insects. It's like a built-in insect catcher! How cool is that?

Another amazing thing about echidnas is their **spines** (*Stacheln*). These spiky things are like **armour** (*Rüstung*)! If something tries to **bother** (*stören*) them, they curl up into a ball and their spines protect them. It's like having a shield around them. That's a clever defence strategy!



But the most amazing thing about echidnas is how they have babies. Female echidnas **lay eggs**! But they don't lay them like birds do. Instead, they lay them into a special **pouch** (*Beutel*) on their belly. After a while, tiny **baby echidnas** called **puggles** hatch (*schlüpfen*). They're so cute and tiny! Imagine having baby echidnas in your belly pouch!

Echidnas are also really **good at digging**. They have **strong claws** that help them dig **burrows** (*Höhlen*) in the ground. These burrows are like their homes, where they can rest and hide from danger. Sometimes, they even share their burrows with other echidnas or small animals.

So, echidnas are amazing creatures with lots of cool things about them. They're definitely one of the most **fascinating** animals in the world!

Sources:

<https://petspruce.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/why-do-Echidnas-have-4-heads.jpg>

<https://static.neatorama.com/images/2013-09/short-beaked-echidna.jpg>

[Echidna - Wikipedia](#)

EMU

by *Hossain Jafari*

English name: *Emu*

German name: *Emu*



The emu is the **second largest bird** in the world, that's why I have chosen it for our project. The emu got its name from the Portuguese word "**Ema**", which means "**big bird**". It's a **cursorial bird**, which means it **can't fly**, but it can **run up to 50 kilometres per hour**.

A relative of the emu is the **cassowary**, which is much heavier than the emu but shorter. At 37 kg, the adult female emu is heavier than the male. It has two **strong, long legs**. Each foot has **three toes** pointing straight ahead. The feathers are variable, females are usually darker than males. An advantage of their plumage (*Gefieder*) is that it can tolerate rain.

You can find these birds in **Australia**, where they are native. The season affects where the emus are. In **winter** they **travel far south** and in **summer** they **travel north**. They can also be found in **New Guinea, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands**, and the **Philippines**. They eat all kinds of **plants**, including seeds and flowers, as well as **insects**.



Female emus lay between **8 and 15 eggs**. That's very impressive because **each egg weighs** as much as about **12 chicken eggs**. They look like big green avocados. After laying the eggs, the male emu has to do everything for about 8 weeks, like cleaning the nest, for example. During this time, it loses a third of its body weight. Later it usually teaches his young how to find food and how to avoid dangerous animals like foxes.

Sources:

[Emu - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[Emu - The Australian Museum](#)

GOULDIAN FINCH

by Zührenaz Emrebaş

English name: *Gouldian finch*

German name: *Gouldamadine*



I have chosen the Gouldian finch because it is a beautiful **multi-coloured bird** known for its **beautiful plumage** (*Gefieder*).

These small **songbirds** are also called **Lady Gouldian finches** and **Rainbow finches**. Gouldian finches are probably the most

beautiful of the many finch species. Males and females show **glossy plumage** in **blue, purple, yellow, red, black, and green** with variations being observed.

The **body length** of the birds is about **eleven centimetres**. From the head to the ends of the two middle tail feathers, their length is between 13 and 15 centimetres. They usually **live for 6 to 8 years**.

These birds are **social** and outside of the breeding season (*Brutzeit*) they often **join mixed flocks** (*gemischte Schwärme*). In the dry season, they move somewhere where they can find food and water. Gouldian finches are **diurnal** (*tagaktiv*). They are **herbivores** (*Pflanzenfresser*) and feed on **grass seeds** and **insects**. The birds can be seen



in **Northern Australia, the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and Queensland**. **Hawks, snakes and feral cats** are the **main enemies** of the Gouldian finch.

The nest is built in **hollows** (*Höhlen*) **of eucalyptus trees**. After 14 days, the young hatch (*schlüpfen*) and are fed with **grass seeds, soft beetles, and spiders**. In order to find and feed their mouths in the dark nest, Gouldian finch chicks **call loudly** when their parents return.

Sources:

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gouldian_finch

<https://animalia.bio/gouldian-finch>

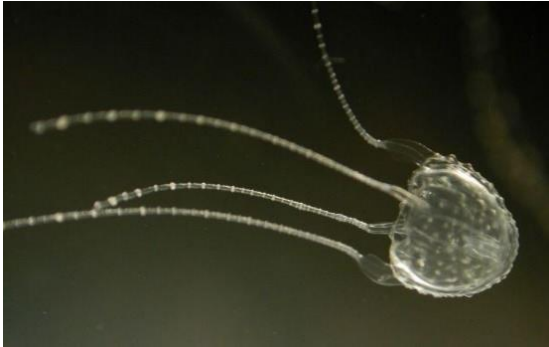
<https://point.pet/gouldian-finch-goulds-finch/>

IRUKANDJI JELLYFISH

by Paul Schreiner

English name: *Irukandji jellyfish*

German name: *Irukandji-Qualle*



The reason why I have chosen the Irukandji jellyfish is because of its alien-like appearance. Besides, when you see this little creature, you wouldn't consider it to be so dangerous, mostly due to its size. In fact, it is the **smallest jellyfish** in the world, yet it has one of the **most potent poisons**

of all. So you see, it is not the size that matters.

What makes this animal so dangerous is its relatively small average size of 5mm to 2.5 cm in length and a weight of 1g and the fact that its **bell-shaped body** is completely transparent which makes it nearly impossible to spot in deep or shallow water. Its **tentacles** can grow up to **1 metre in length** and are covered with **thousands of stinging cells**. Unlike other jellyfish, the whole body of the Irukandji jellyfish is covered with stinging cells, around 5,000 per square centimetre.

This **poison** is in fact so strong that if these stingers are fired into a human, it can cause a **severe medical condition** called **Irukandji syndrome**, which can be fatal.



Its diet consists of **fish** and other small **vertebrates** (*Wirbeltiere*). Its predators are the Ocean sunfish and sea turtles. There are 16 different species of this animal and all of them are poisonous. Its **top speed** is about **2 kilometres per hour**. The Irukandji jellyfish is commonly found in northern and some parts of eastern Australia, but it is also native in Hawaii and some parts of Asia and Europe. It mainly prefers warm water and **depths** of 10 to 20 metres. This however isn't always the case as it has also been spotted near the water surface and shallower depths. Where it resides can be **influenced** by factors like sunlight or water temperature.

Source:

<https://factanimal.com/irukandji-jellyfish/>

KOALA

by Flora Schwaiger

English name: *Koala*

German name: *Koala*



The reason I chose the koala to write about is because I think it's a cute, fluffy animal. And it seems very interesting that they spend most of their day in a tree and **sleep for 18 hours**.

The koala is **one of Australia's most famous animals**. It lives in the **eucalyptus forests** of eastern Australia and **spends most of its life sleeping**.

The koala has a **robust body** with pale (*hell*) **grey to yellowish** (*gelblich*) **fur**. It is about **60 to 85 cm long**. It has small yellow eyes, a round **black leathery nose** and **big fluffy ears**.

Many people call the koala a 'bear' because it looks like a live teddy bear. But that's not true – a koala is **not really a bear**. It belongs to a group of animals called **marsupials** (*Beuteltiere*), which carry their young in a pouch (*Beutel*).

A female koala has **one baby** at a time. The **baby is called a joey**. The mother carries the joey in her pouch for a few months. Then the joey climbs onto its mother's back. It clings (*klammern*) to her until it's about 1 year old.



And when they're not sleeping, koalas spend most of their time **eating eucalyptus leaves, consuming up to 1kg a day**. They also have **strong claws** and **toes** to help them grab branches. The koala eats the leaves of only a few species of eucalyptus. So, it's sometimes hard for koalas to find food because they're **picky eaters** (*wählerisch beim Essen*).

Sources:

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KOOKABURRA

by *Svenja Weberberger*

English name: *Kookaburra*

German name: *Jägerliest, Lachender Hans*



I have chosen the kookaburra because it's a big but cute bird. Kookaburras are the largest of the **kingfishers** (*Eisvögel*). They have very **big heads, long beaks** (*Schnäbel*), and relatively **small bodies and tails**. They also have a nickname. Kookaburras are **territorial**, they use their **laughing call** to

mark their territory and warn other birds to stay away, because of that their nickname is "**the laughing kookaburra**".

Kookaburras live in Australia, New Guinea, and Tasmania in small family groups. If they avoid predators on the ground and in the air, they can **live up to 20 years**. Kookaburras use nest holes which are often **reused** over many years. A clutch (*Wurf*) of **2-3 white eggs** is laid between November and May. The kookaburra has **off-white underparts, brown wings with lighter flecks** and a **reddish-brown tail with pale tips**.



Kookaburras are not picky feeders. They feed on a wide range of food sources depending on what is available. Its diet includes **earthworms, snails, insects, freshwater crayfish** (*Süßwasserkrebse*), **frogs, lizards, rats, mice, and small birds**. Like others in this family, they kill their prey by **hitting it on branches**.

They grow to between **28 and 47cm** in length and weigh around **300g**. The total population size of the species is around **800,000 birds**. Kookaburras are usually **docile** (*fügsam*) and not aggressive towards humans. However, like any wild animal, kookaburras may **defend** themselves if they feel threatened or cornered.

Sources:

[Laughing Kookaburra - BirdLife Australia](#)

[Laughing kookaburra - Wikipedia](#)

[Laughing kookaburra | New Zealand Birds Online \(nzbirdsonline.org.nz\)](#)

LEAFY SEADRAGON

by *Jana Klopff*

English name: *Leafy seadragon*

German name: *Großer Fetzenfisch*



I chose the leafy seadragon because this fascinating sea creature looks like a **floating leaf**. It lives in the waters around Australia. This special animal belongs to the **seahorse** family. It **moves slowly** in the water and likes to hide in the seagrass. What makes the leafy sea dragon

special is its **role reversal during reproduction** (*Rollentausch bei der Fortpflanzung*). The females lay their eggs in a pocket on the males' tail. The **males carry the eggs** until they hatch (*schlüpfen*).

Leafy sea dragons are **carnivorous** (*Fleischfresser*) and feed mainly on **small animals** such as **plankton** and **tiny crabs** (*winzige Krabben*). Sadly, they are in **danger** because their habitats (*Lebensräume*) are being **destroyed**. Fortunately, there are **protected areas** (*Schutzgebiete*) to ensure that they can survive.



Although they are an endangered (*gefährdet*) species, leafy sea dragons are a **favourite target** (*Ziel*) **of divers**. They like to go on diving excursions to see and explore these special animals. It is important that we take care to protect these fascinating creatures so that **future generations** will also have the opportunity to admire and **explore** them.

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[Blättriger Seedrache | Abteilung für Biodiversität, Naturschutz und Attraktionen \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au)

<https://www.waikikiaquarium.org/experience/animal-guide/fishes/seahorses-seadragons-and-pipefishes/leafy-seadragon/>

NUMBAT

by Ilia Flautner

English name: *Numbat*
German name: *Ameisenbeutler*



I have chosen the numbat because I think it is a unique and interesting Australian **marsupial**. I also find it exciting that such a small animal can **run at speeds of up to 32 kilometres per hour**. Despite its outward resemblance (*äußerliche Ähnlichkeit*) to the squirrel (*Eichhörnchen*), the numbat is closely related to

other Australian marsupials like the Tasmanian devil or the Quoll.

Adult numbats are medium-sized (**average 27 cm**) and have exceptionally **long tails** that grow up to 20 centimetres in length. The numbat has a **brown and white striped coat** which provides it with good **camouflage** (*Tarnung*) in its natural habitat. Its **long, pointed snout** helps it to catch termites, as it mainly eats **termites** and **ants**. And believe it or not, with its **long, sticky tongue**, it can catch up to 20,000 termites per day.

Numbats live **alone** and don't build their own nests but use **termite mounds** (*Termitenhügel*) for resting. They spend almost the whole day searching for food, especially in the morning and late afternoon. Unfortunately, their **population has decreased drastically** over the years. The numbat is **endangered** (*vom Aussterben bedroht*) mainly because of its **biggest enemies**, the **red fox** and the **cat**.



Sources:

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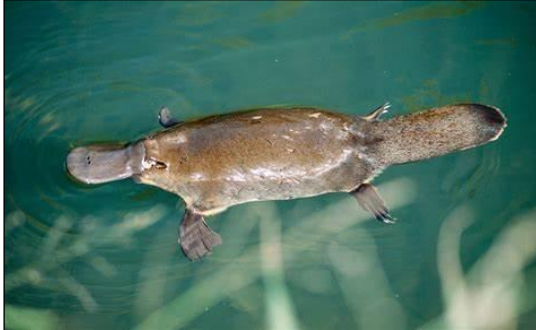
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PLATYPUS

by Laura Gahleitner

English name: *Platypus*

German name: *Schnabeltier*



I have chosen the platypus because it is a highly interesting and fascinating animal. The platypus is a small, brown, **furry, amphibious mammal** with an especially flat **bill** (*Schnabel*) that kind of makes it look like a combination of a beaver and a duck.

It also has strange **white patches** of fur under its eyes and a **wide, flat tail**. One thing that makes it special is that it is one of only two mammals that **can lay eggs**. The male platypus also has two back ankles called **spurs** which contain a **venom**.

The platypus is an **excellent swimmer** and spends much of its time in the water searching for food. When it moves on land, it **walks on its knuckles** so the webs on its feet will not get in the way. It has an **average body temperature** of about **32°C**, which is much lower than that of most mammals.

The platypus is commonly found in **rivers and riverbanks** of **eastern Australia and Tasmania**. A platypus can either be small or big, but the bigger ones tend to live in Tasmania while the smaller ones are native to Australia. A fully-grown adult can **weigh less than one kilo** but also **up to 3 kilograms**. Its body can be from **30 cm to 40 cm**. It eats **worms, insect larvae, shrimps** and **yabbies**, which are a kind of freshwater crayfish. It digs these animals out of the bottom of the river with its beak or catches them while swimming. The platypus can **sense electricity from other animals**. It keeps its eyes shut when swimming, using only its other senses, such as hearing, touch, and changes in the electrical field. This can also be used for hunting and is one of the unbelievable facts I have come across while researching this fascinating animal.



Sources:

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QUOKKA

by Patrick Heumader

English name: *Quokka*

German name: *Quokka*



I have chosen the quokka because it's cute and furry. The quokka is a **marsupial** and it belongs to the same family as kangaroos or wallabies. It is just as big as a cat. Quokkas live in the southwest of Australia, but they inhabit some smaller islands as well, such as **Rottneest Island**.

A quokka only weighs about 2.5 to 5 kilograms and it is 40 to 55 centimetres long and has a **tail** of 25 to 30 centimetres. Its body is **stocky** (*untersetzt*), and it has **cute round ears** and a **short, broad head**. Its fur is a **grizzled brown** colour.

The quokka has an **average lifespan** of 10. That means it can live up to **10 years**. A female quokka is pregnant for only one month, after that month the baby quokka (called **joey**) is born.



The word *Quokka* is derived from a Nyungar word, which was probably *gwaga*. Quokkas are **herbivores** (*Pflanzenfresser*), so they don't eat any meat. There are only about 4000 quokkas that live on the main island, that's why they are listed as a **vulnerable** (*gefährdet*) species.

Quokkas have little fear of humans and approach people closely, particularly on Rottneest Island. Their **enemies** are **humans, dogs, cats, dingoes** and **foxes**. A fun fact about quokkas is that they always look happy even if they aren't. That's because the corners of its mouth (*Mundwinkel*) are pulled up, so if a quokka opens its mouth, it looks like smiling.

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QUOLL

by *Sonja Lengauer*

English name: Quoll

German name: Beutelmarder

I have chosen the quoll because it is a cute and furry little **marsupial** (*Beuteltier*) with lovely white spots all over its body but at the same time it is also a **carnivorous predator** (*fleischfressender Jäger*) with **sharp teeth** and **sharp claws**, which it uses for hunting.



Quolls are sometimes referred to as 'native cats' or 'tiger cats'. There are **six species of quoll**, four of which are found in Australia and two of which are native to New Guinea. Their Latin name



Dasyurus means '**hairy tail**', which describes it pretty well. Adult quolls are **medium-sized** (between 25 and 75 cm long) and have exceptionally **long tails** that grow up to 35 cm in length. They are generally **brown, black, or fawn** (*hellbraun*) with **white spots**, bright **pink noses** and a

long snout (*Schnauze*). Females develop a **pouch** (*Beutel*) for their young. They do not grow very old – the average lifespan is two to five years.

Quolls live alone in **burrows** (*Erdhöhlen*), **rocks**, and **tree logs** (*Baumstämme*). They are **solitary, nocturnal** animals, which means that they hunt alone and are active at night and sleep during the day. Even though they are normally seen on the ground, they can also climb trees in order to hunt. They **eat insects, smaller mammals, lizards, reptiles, frogs, small birds, and bird's eggs**. Unfortunately, their population has decreased drastically over the years. Out of the six species of quolls, four are near threatened (*potenziell gefährdet*) and two are **endangered** (*vom Aussterben bedroht*). However, efforts are being made to revive (*wiederbeleben*) their population.

Sources:

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REDBACK SPIDER

by Luisa Broda

English name: *Redback spider*

German name: *Rotrückenspinne*



I have chosen the redback spider because it is a very interesting animal that can be recognised by its **curved black body** with an unmistakable **red stripe** on the upper side of its belly, which gives it its name. Redback spiders are **nocturnal** hunters, which means they primarily hunt for **prey** (*Beute*) during the night and they kill their prey with a highly **deadly venom** and **webs** (*Netz*).

Redback spiders are native to Australia, especially in places where people live, like houses, **sheds** (*Schuppen*) and **gardens**. They like to hide in dark, **sheltered** (*geschützt*) spots such as under **furniture** (*Möbel*), in **piles of wood** (*Holzstapel*), or in outdoor structures.

The redback spider primarily feeds on (*ernährt sich von*) **small insects** such as **flies**, **beetles**, and **cockroaches** (*Kakerlaken*). It captures its prey by spinning **sticky webs** that it places near its hiding spots. When prey flies into the web and gets stuck, the spider uses its venomous bites to paralyze the prey before consuming it.



The venom of the redback spider is a powerful liquid that affects the nervous system. When it bites someone, it can cause **intense pain**, **sweating**, **nausea** (*Übelkeit*), and **muscle weakness**. However, it's usually not deadly, especially since there's an **antivenom** (*Gegengift*). If someone gets bitten, they should seek medical help right away. To avoid bites, it's recommended to wear gloves when working in places where spiders might be and to check for spider webs before using outdoor equipment.

Sources:

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redback_spider

[Redback spider - Wikipedia](#)

[Redback Spider - The Australian Museum](#)

RED KANGAROO

by *Magdalena Schatzl*

English name: *Red Kangaroo*

German name: *Rotes Riesenkänguru*



I have chosen the red kangaroo because it is an iconic and **commonly seen** animal in Australia. The fur of the mammal ranges from **red to brown**. Males are usually orange red, while the females are often more a blue-grey colour. Females have a **pouch** for the young. Kangaroos have

large, strong hind legs but the two **front legs** are very **short**. They can make big jumps, and they keep the balance with their tail. The mammals **move quickly** with jumps of up to **55 kilometres per hour**. Even more amazingly, males can **jump a distance of 9 metres**, can you believe that?

The red kangaroo is the **largest marsupial** with a body length of up to 1.4 m and a tail of up to 1 m, which is really impressive. I was shocked about the fact that **males** are **twice as heavy** as females. A fully-grown red kangaroo weighs 92



kilograms. A lot of people don't know that the kangaroos started with a population of 27 million and now there are more than 50 million of them in Australia. The **life expectancy** (*Lebensdauer*) of the animals is **8 to 18 years**. They feed mainly on **plants, grass and herbs**. Their greatest enemy is the Dingo.

A **boxing kangaroo** first appeared in 1891 in a drawing in a Sydney newspaper. It showed "Jack, the fighting kangaroo with Professor Lendermann". At that time, showmen showed kangaroos fighting people with boxing gloves. In real life the male animals **box each other** when they want to **lead the group**.

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SALTWATER CROCODILE

by *Anja Jungwirth*

English name: *Saltwater crocodile*

German name: *Leistenkrokodil*



The reason why I have chosen the saltwater crocodile is because it is very interesting, and I think there are a lot of fascinating facts about it.

One striking fact is that it is the **largest living reptile** and the **third heaviest amphibian** in the world.

Saltwater crocodiles are ancient animals, with **fossils** that are 200 million years old. They may be seen in **rivers**, along the **coast** and sometimes in the **open sea**.

The saltwater crocodile can grow up to 5 metres in length and the males are even bigger than the females, they can grow **up to 7 meters**. A saltwater crocodile usually weighs about **1,360 kilograms**.

They have a **strong tail** that helps them to move through the water. Their **snout** (*Schnauze*) is wide, and they have **two rows of scales** (*Schuppen*) on their bodies, which reach from their neck to their tail.



Years ago, Australia used to **export the skins** of crocodiles. Over time, more and more crocodiles were hunted for their skin until there were hardly any left. Now saltwater crocodiles are **protected** in Australia, which means that it is illegal to kill them. Even if there is a danger to people, the crocodiles are only moved, and not killed. Saltwater crocodiles usually do not eat humans, they love to **eat fish, birds** or other animals like them. They can go a long time without eating and can lie very still for up to an hour to allow the crocodiles to catch their food.

Sources:

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https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saltwater_crocodile

SYDNEY FUNNEL-WEB SPIDER

by *Julius Traubenek*

English name: *Sydney funnel-web spider*

German name: *Australische Trichternetzspinne*



I have chosen this animal because it's a little spider that is very **venomous** and **can kill you** with one bite if you don't get help immediately. The poison attacks the human nervous system and is very dangerous. However, the venom of female Sydney funnel-web spiders is less poisonous than that of males.

It's a spider that is usually found within 100 kilometres of **Sydney**. Its Latin name is *Atrax robustus*. "Robustus" means "strong". This creature is **1 to 5 centimetres** long. The spider's colour ranges from **blueish-black** to **black** or shades of **brown**. The spider's bite is very **painful** and leaves clear marks on your skin.

Normally this spider builds **tunnels lined with silk** (*mit Seide ausgekleidet*), sometimes with two holes, which make those tunnels look like a Y or a T. The spider burrows in places where there is a **humid climate** (*feuchtes Klima*), like under a rock or a log. Female spiders spend most of the time in their burrowed tunnels waiting for their next prey. That can be **insects, lizards or frogs**. If a victim arrives, they rush out and kill it by injecting their venom.

During warmer months, males wander about in search of females they **can mate with** (*sich paaren*). But sometimes they wander into houses or backyards or fall into swimming pools. However, if they happen to get into water they can survive for 24 hours by trapping air bubbles around their hairs.

Sydney funnel-webs are mainly **active at night**. During the day, they hide in cool hideaways. When threatened, they easily get **aggressive** and show this by standing on their hind legs and displaying their fangs. When they bite, they tightly hold their victim and then bite rapidly.

Sources:

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THORNY DEVIL

by Sarah Pötscher

English name: *Thorny devil*

German name: *Dornteufel, Wüstenteufel*



The reason why I chose this animal to write about is because it is a relatively **small lizard** that can change the colour of its skin from **pale** (*bläss*) **to dark** depending on the weather.

Thorny devils are very good at **blending** (*verschmelzen*) **into their surroundings**, by changing their colour. They can mostly be found in western and southern parts of Australia, in **dry sand** and **grass**.

They are **day-active** animals and can grow to around **15-20 centimetres**. They get their name from the fact that they are covered in **spines** (*Stacheln*). These spines also help them get water out of sand.

Another interesting fact about these creatures is that the **females** are actually **taller than the males**. Their Latin name is ***Moloch horridus***. That name was inspired by John Milton's poem 'Paradise Lost'. In the poem, the Caananite God 'Moloch' was associated with human sacrifice.



In the poem, the Caananite God 'Moloch' was associated with human sacrifice.

Thorny devils mostly eat **ants** and can eat up to **3,000** at a time. They are very **fast** and can run up to **60 kilometres per hour**.

The most interesting fact about these animals is that they have some sort of **'fake head'** on their shoulders. When threatened, the lizard can tuck its real head down between its legs, leaving the false head where its real head was originally.

Sources:

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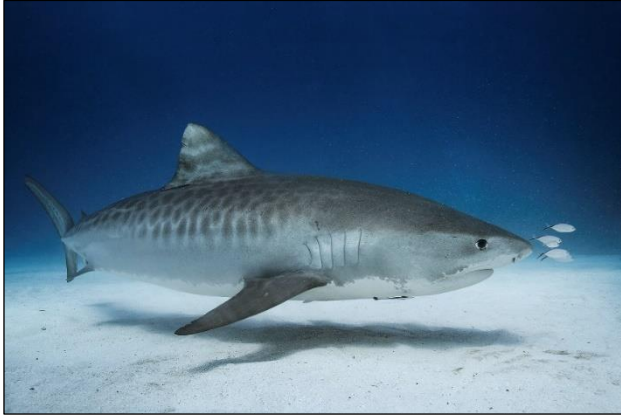
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TIGER SHARK

by Jana Kolacek

English name: *Tiger shark*

German name: *Tigerhai*



I have chosen the tiger shark because I think sharks are very fascinating and interesting animals. This shark reaches lengths of **5.5 metres and weighs over 900 kg**. The tiger shark gets its name from the **black spots and stripes** which run along its body like a tiger's, but these are easier to spot on the young

animals. The **back** of the tiger shark is **blueish-green** to dark black or grey. The **belly** is **yellowish-white** to pure white.

Tiger sharks inhabit (*bewohnen*) **all five oceans** of the world. They are found in shallow coastal water (*flache Küstengewässer*) to the deepest, darkest, and coldest parts of the oceans. They can dive to a depth of about **2,000 metres** but it's incredibly rare (*selten*) to find them below 3,000 metres.



They are **solitary creatures** (*Einzelgänger*) and rarely attack sharks or humans who approach (*sich nähern*) them. The tiger shark can become **very aggressive** and

is one of the **most dangerous** sharks, besides the Great white shark and the bull shark. Tiger sharks are inactive during the day but go hunting **at night**. They are **excellent hunters** and feed on many different prey (*Beutetiere*). These include **fish, sea turtles, birds, and other sharks**. Because of their strength and size, tiger sharks are able to hunt even large prey such as **dolphins** or **seals** (*Robben*).

Sources:

[Where Do Sharks Live? Shark Habitats Explained - Discovery UK](#)

[Tiger shark - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[Tigerhai: Der König der Meere | Fisch-Steckbrief](#)

TREE-KANGAROO

by Pia Zwettler

English name: *Tree-kangaroo*

German name: *Baumkänguru*



In the following text I would like to introduce you to a cute little animal that is native to Australia, the tree-kangaroo. I have chosen this animal because I found the name very appealing, and it is an animal I have never heard of before.

The tree-kangaroo has **soft reddish-brown fur** with golden fur on its limbs (*Glieder*), face, underbelly and two stripes that run from its tail up its back. There are about **12 different species** of tree kangaroos. Tree-kangaroos are found in the rainforest of **Australia, New Guinea, and Indonesia**. Their habits range from lowland tropical forests to mountainous regions, where there is dense vegetation and plenty of tree cover.

Tree-kangaroos are **omnivores** (*Allesfresser*). Most of the time they feed on **leaves, flowers, fruits, and insects**. They sometimes also eat **eggs and small birds**.

These animals can live up to **20 years**, the oldest known animal was 27 years old.

They weigh between **five and ten kilograms**. As with most animals in the world, males tend to be heavier than females.



They spend hours foraging (*nach Futter suchen*) in their arboreal habitat (*Lebensraum*) for foliage (*Laub*) and fruits, though they will sometimes visit the ground in search of more food. The tree kangaroo is a **solitary creature** (*Einzelgänger*), and doesn't typically form strong social bonds. Unfortunately, these animals are severely **threatened** (*gefährdet*) **by deforestation** (*Abholzung*), **hunting and habitat destruction**. Apparently, there has been a **ban on hunting** them (*Jagdverbot*) since 2004.

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<https://www.ifaw.org/animals/tree-kangaroos>

TRAPDOOR SPIDER

by Manuel Richler

English name: *Trapdoor spider*

German name: *Falltürspinne*



I have chosen this animal because it has a unique hunting style and is one of the smallest spiders. Also, it is one of the top ten coolest spiders in the world.

The trapdoor spider is a **tarantula-like** spider. It inhabits **tropical regions** throughout the world and is mostly found in eastern Australia, especially in coastal

regions of New South Wales and around Sydney. It can also be found in the **Mediterranean Sea** (*Mittelmeer*) region. Its Latin name is *Ctenizida*. An adult trapdoor spider is **1.5 to 3 centimetres long** and lives for **5 to 20 years**. The oldest specimen (*Exemplar*) was 43 years old and died of a sting of a wasp.

Trapdoor spiders are **brown** and **black**. They do not build webs but dig a living tube in the ground. The opening of the tube is closed with a **lid** made of **spider silk** and material from the surrounding area. To hunt, the spider **lurks** (*lauern*) under the slightly open “trap door”. When a prey animal passes close enough, the spider jumps out and grabs it. The spider only eats at night. It mostly eats **crickets, moths, beetles** and **grasshoppers**.



Predators of trapdoor spiders can include **birds, bandicoots** (*Beuteldachs*), **scorpions, parasitic wasps**, and **flies**. Female trapdoor spiders lay their eggs several months after mating (*Paarung*) and protect them within their **burrow**. When the young have hatched, they remain for several months before dispersing on the ground. Trapdoor spiders are **not endangered** at all. In fact, their population has increased slightly in recent years.

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WALLABY

by *Letizia Matzinger*

English name: *Wallaby*

German name: *Wallaby*



Wallabies are **marsupials** (*Beuteltiere*) that live in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and New Guinea. Their scientific name is *Notamacropus*.

There are about **30 species** of wallabies. Their fur is **grey or brown** in colour but some species can have markings like the red-necked wallaby which has a red marking on their neck, hence its name.

Wallabies mostly live in **rocky areas, grasslands** and **swamps** (*Sümpfe*). They have a **herbivore** diet which means they **eat plants** like grass, leaves and roots. They **swallow their food whole** without chewing and later spit it out to chew it and then swallow it again. They don't need a lot of water either. Wallabies can **survive for months without drinking** any water. If you see them you may think they **look like kangaroos** but there are some differences. The main difference is their size. While kangaroos grow up to 8 feet and weigh 150 to 200 pounds wallabies are only about 3 feet tall and weigh 45 pounds.

As they are marsupials or **pouch animals**, the young **crawl into their mother's pouch right after birth**. Newborn wallabies are still undeveloped and helpless, but they fully develop in the pouch. Inside the pouch it's warm and safe and the little wallaby gets milk from its mother. Undeveloped marsupials are called **joey**s. When the joey gets bigger it sometimes leaves its pouch and when they've grown up they don't go back into the pouch again.

To **defend themselves** against predators, wallabies use their long **hind legs** (*Hinterbeine*). With their legs they can **jump big distances** and even **kick** their attackers.

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WOMBAT

by *Kilian Ganglberger*

English name: *Wombat*

German name: *Wombat*



The reason why I want to tell you about the wombat is because they're just incredibly adorable little **mammals** with very **soft fur** and a **pouch** that **faces backwards**, which is unique. Even their **poop** is interesting because it's shaped like **tiny little cubes**.

There are **three different species of wombat**, all of which are native to Australia and **protected by law**. Wombats are quite a bit larger than most people think when they first see them. They are about **1 m long** and around **50 cm high** at a weight of **20 to 35 kg**. Their fur is brown and very soft, especially the **hairy-nosed wombats** are known for their **silky fur**. They have **dark brown noses**, **cute round** or **pointy little ears** and a **backwards facing pouch**, which prevents dirt from getting into it while digging. They live about as long as the average housecat with a **lifespan** of **15 years** in the wild. They can live from 20 all the way up to 30 years if bred in captivity (*in Gefangenschaft aufwachsend*) though.



Although wombats are **crepuscular** (*dämmerungsaktiv*) and **nocturnal**, they do sometimes search for food during the day. They live in **burrows** which they'll often share with other wombats, although they don't do the same with their feeding grounds which they're very **territorial** about. Wombats are **herbivores**, which means that their diet mainly consists of **grass, roots**, and similar **plants**. To find food they must rely on their sense of smell because of their **poor eyesight**. While the Common wombat has a large population widespread throughout the south and east of the country, the southern hairy-nosed wombat is **near threatened** and the northern hairy-nosed wombat is considered **critically endangered**, though the situation has improved a lot in the last few years.

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wombat>

<https://britannica.com/animal/wombat>

<https://www.bushheritage.org.au/species/wombats>

WOYLIE

by **Baldwin Grill**

English name: *Woylie*

German name: *Bürstenschwanz-Rattenkänguru*



I have chosen the woylie because I think it's quite a cool animal. I also really like kangaroos and the woylie is **a small kind of a kangaroo**. It is a marsupial mammal (*Beutelsäuger*). The **small rat kangaroo** is divided in two different groups, the **Eastern woylie** and the **Western woylie**.

A woylie can grow up to **36 cm** high and the length of the tail is also about **36 cm**. As I said, the woylie is really small, so it is not that heavy, it only weighs about **0.8 kilograms to 1.8 kilograms**. Its back is **grey to brown** and its belly is a **brighter yellowish-grey**.

The woylie primarily lives in **dry deserts** or in **dry woodlands**. It is a **herd animal** that lives together with its conspecifics (*Artgenossen*) in a cave.

The main food of woylies is **mushrooms**, especially **truffles**, which strengthen their legs and other limbs.

The woylie can reproduce **one baby** per throw and in one **year they can reproduce three babies**. The baby spends the first five months in its mother's pouch. Unfortunately, **the Eastern woylie is threatened with extinction** (*vom Aussterben*



bedroht) because of the Aboriginals, who eat these small kangaroos. The Western woylie, however, is quite safe at the other end of the island of Australia.

Sources:

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Journey of the Coastal Kooris by Ron Fötter
Authentic Australian Aboriginal art @Tobwabba Art



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