

English lessons

Reading

Day 1

1. Story time

Read and enjoy the story, *Wombats*.

2. Answering Questions

Look at the set of *Wombat questions*.

- Carefully read each question.
- Write your answers neatly in the spaces provided.

Writing

Day 1

- Write sentences explaining what you find interesting about wombats.
- Draw or paint your own picture of a wombat.

Wombats



What is a wombat?

Wombats are short-legged, muscular marsupials. A marsupial is an animal that gives birth to live young, which they then carry and feed in a pouch. Wombats can grow to about 1 metre long and can weigh as much as 30kg (which is the same as 200 bananas!).

Where do wombats live?

Wombats live in Australia and some of the small islands surrounding Australia.

What do wombats eat?

Wombats are mainly nocturnal and emerge at night to feed on grasses, herbs, bark and roots. The incisor teeth of a wombat are continually growing, so to keep them in check wombats gnaw on bark and tough vegetation.

Why do wombats burrow?

Wombats have wide, barrel shaped bodies and strong feet with long claws which mean they are made for digging. Wombats excavate extensive systems of tunnels and chambers. Wombats sleep, rest and raise their family in the burrow.

What's special about a wombat?

- A wombat's pouch is unusual among marsupials because it faces backwards towards the rump (the area around its bottom). This is so the wombat won't spray mud into the pouch when it is digging.
- Wombat poo is shaped like a cube. This is because wombats mark their territory using the scent from their poo and having cube shaped pooh stops it from rolling away.
- Wombats have a tough rump. When they feel threatened, a wombat will dive into a tunnel, blocking the entrance with its rump. The sturdy rump prevents predators from being able to remove and attack the wombat.



Wombat Questions



1. Wombats can grow to be 1 metre in length. How many kilograms (kg) can they weigh?

2. What do wombats do to stop their incisor teeth growing too long?

3. The text says that 'Wombats excavate extensive systems of tunnels and chambers' in the ground. Copy out the word in the sentence which means the same thing as *dig*.

4. True or false? 'Marsupials have pouches that their young grow and feed in.' Circle either true or false.

5. True or false? 'Wombats eat frogs, mice and big insects.' Circle either true or false.

6. In your own words, say why the opening of a wombat's pouch faces away from its front paws.

7. Why is a wombat's poo cube shaped?

8. For what reason do wombats sometimes dive into their burrows and block the entrance with their sturdy rumps?

9. Write a caption to go with this picture:



Reading

Day 2 –

1. Story time

- Listen to/watch the reading of *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qMMhJ4iiu8>
- Discuss with an adult what type of text this writing is.

2. Agree that *Diary of a Wombat* is told from the point of view of the wombat.

- Think about *The Dust Bath*. Write a sentence expressing what the wombat thinks about having a dust bath: *I had a lovely refreshing dust bath, which really cheered me up.*
- Would the family feel the same? No! Write a sentence expressing what the family feel. *That annoying wombat ruined our barbecue!*
- Write sentences for wombat and the family about *The Mat* and *The Door*.

Writing

Day 2

- Write about a real or made up day in the style of *The Diary of a Wombat* – *Morning... sat around in pjs. Afternoon... played in the garden. Got muddy. Went indoors. Add some pictures to your diary!*

Reading

Day 3

Verbs and tenses

What are verbs? What does being 'in the past tense' mean?

- Carefully read *The Past Tense Simple and Progressive Forms* and then go back to the start of *Diary of a Wombat*. Be ready to pause the video so you can see the Monday and Tuesday pages.
- On *Monday's and Tuesday's Verbs* record all the verbs used on those days in the diary.
- What tense are the verbs in? Confirm that they are in the past tense.
- Are the verbs in the simple or progressive form of the past tense? Confirm that they are in the simple form of the past tense.

The Past Tense – Simple and Progressive Forms

When we write about things that happened **in the past**, we can show this by using the **simple past** verb form.

*The kangaroo **jumped** over the fence.*

Often we add -ed to the end of the verb.

Other verbs take different forms to show past tense



The kangaroo *ate* some grass.

To show that the past action was in progress for a **period of time**, or at the **same time as something else**, we can use the **past progressive** form.



The baby koala was holding on tightly while its mother climbed the tree.

The koalas were eating leaves from the tree.

The baby held onto her mother for a while – it takes time to climb a tree. The koalas may not have finished eating leaves.

To write in the **past progressive** form we use helping verbs (was or were) and add **-ing** to the base verb.

The cockatoo was flapping its wings in the sunshine. The
seeds open with its beak. The birds were squabbling in



was cracking

Writing

Day 3

Look at *Wombat's Simple Past Sentences*.

- Rewrite each sentence using the progressive form of the past tense.
- Now read the sentences on *Wombat's Progressive Past Sentences*.
- Rewrite each sentence in the simple past tense.

Wombat's Simple Past Sentences

- Read each sentence carefully and highlight the verbs.
Watch out – some sentences contain more than one verb.
- Rewrite each sentence in the space below but using the progressive form of the past tense.



Wombat slept peacefully through the morning.

She gnawed on a carrot.

She fought with a flat, hairy creature.

Wombat dug a deep, dark hole in the garden and hid from the sun.

Mum and Dad nailed up the door and took in their washing.

Wombat's Progressive Past Sentences



- Read each sentence carefully and highlight the verbs.
Watch out – some sentences contain more than one verb.
- Rewrite each sentence in the space below but using the simple form of the past tense.

Wombat was finding her grass dull and tasteless.

The wombat was scratching on the garden chairs and rubbing against the table legs.

Mum and Dad were looking for carrots and oats for the pesky wombat.

The rain was falling and the wombat's new hole was quickly filling with water.

The children were hearing strange noises from under the house as the wombat was digging a hole there.

Reading

Day 4 - Story time

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0esdaXtf0Yo&t=334s> and listen to a **different** reading of *Diary of a Wombat*.

- Which reading of the story did you like most?
- Give reasons as to why you prefer your choice.

Writing

Day 4 - Planning to write a new story

Tomorrow, you are going to write the diary entry of an animal who causes all sorts of trouble for a family. Today you will plan your story.

- Decide which animal will feature in your story. Record this on *My Animal Diary Planner*.
- Decide which day of the week your diary entry will be for.
- Have fun thinking of the three things your animal does that cause big trouble for the family.
- Look at the *Diary Suggestions* for some ideas if you get stuck.

My Animal Diary Planner

My diary will be written by a	
The day of the week for the diary will be	
These are the three troublesome things my animal does:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.<li>2.<li>3.
This is what happens at the end of the day:	

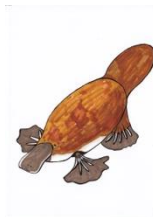
Diary Suggestions

Some things your animal might do wrong:

Your diary could be written by ANY animal you want.

It could be written by an animal you know like a dog or a cat, a squirrel or a garden bird.

Or it could be written by *another* Australian animal, like a kangaroo, a possum or a platypus, an echidna, a cassowary or a kookaburra.



Break something valuable

Knock something special over

Leave **tooth, beak or claw marks** on something precious

Get **mud or water** on something clean

Eat or drink something being kept for a special occasion

Make a lot of **noise** when it is quiet

Leave **fur or hair** in the wrong place

Make a horrible **smell!**

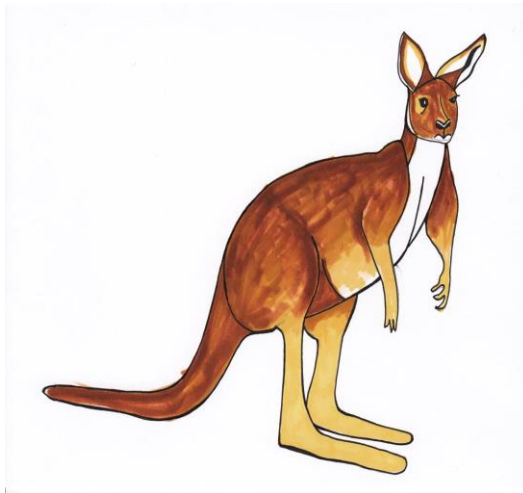
Reading

Day 5 Story time

Read and enjoy *Diary of a Kangaroo*.

- Who causes more trouble – the wombat in *Diary of a Wombat* or the kangaroo here!?

Diary of a Kangaroo



Wednesday

I woke up in the late morning after a good sleep under the trees and decided to bounce over to the nearest house to see what was happening.

The family have a swimming pool in the garden and I thought it would be a great idea to jump in for a quick wash. Ker-splloosh! The water was feeling so cool and refreshing, although a lot of it splashed out, which left the pool half empty. Honestly, you would think that people would keep the right amount of water in their pools.

In the afternoon, I clambered out of the pool and walked towards the garage. Unfortunately, the water from the pool had made the garden very muddy, so I was leaving a dirty trail all the way across the grass. Really, I thought, people should put paths in their gardens. It would make life much easier.

There was a very smart looking car parked on the drive. With one bounce, I was sitting on its bonnet. I was gazing out at the view for quite a while because it looked so beautiful. Suddenly, strange creaking noises began to come from underneath the car and – crack! – two of the wheels fell off. Well! I was thinking to myself that it wasn't a very well-made car, when I heard a noise.

The family appeared at their gate. They were shouting and pointing at me. I couldn't understand a word they were saying but they seemed to be very excited about something. I didn't have time to stop and talk to them so I bounded off, giving them a cheery wave good bye.

What a fun day. Now, I wonder what I will do tomorrow?

Writing

Day 5 – BIG WRITE Diary of your chosen animal

- Make sure you use the layout and language features of a diary.
- Keep your writing in the past tense. Try to include verbs in the progressive form of the past tense.
- Write in full sentences and use conjunctions to link ideas.
- If you have time, why not write the next day's diary entry as well?
What trouble will your creature cause then?