

Kangaroos

Kangaroos live primarily in Eastern Australia. They live in herds like elephants do. One herd can include more than 50 kangaroos!

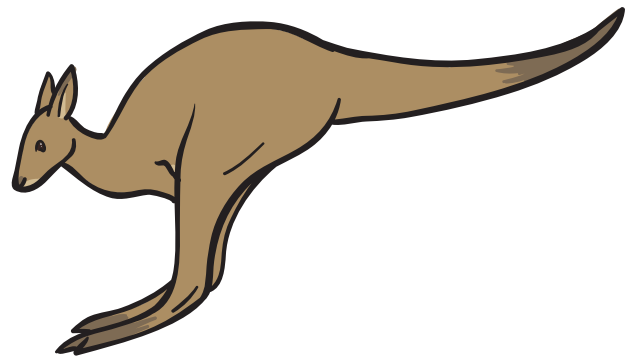
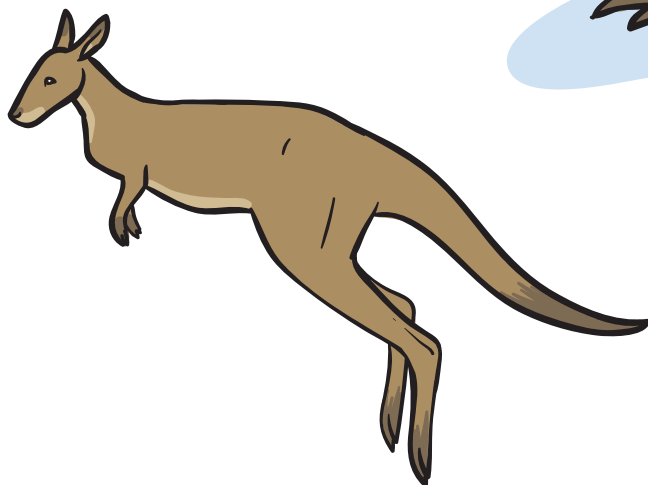
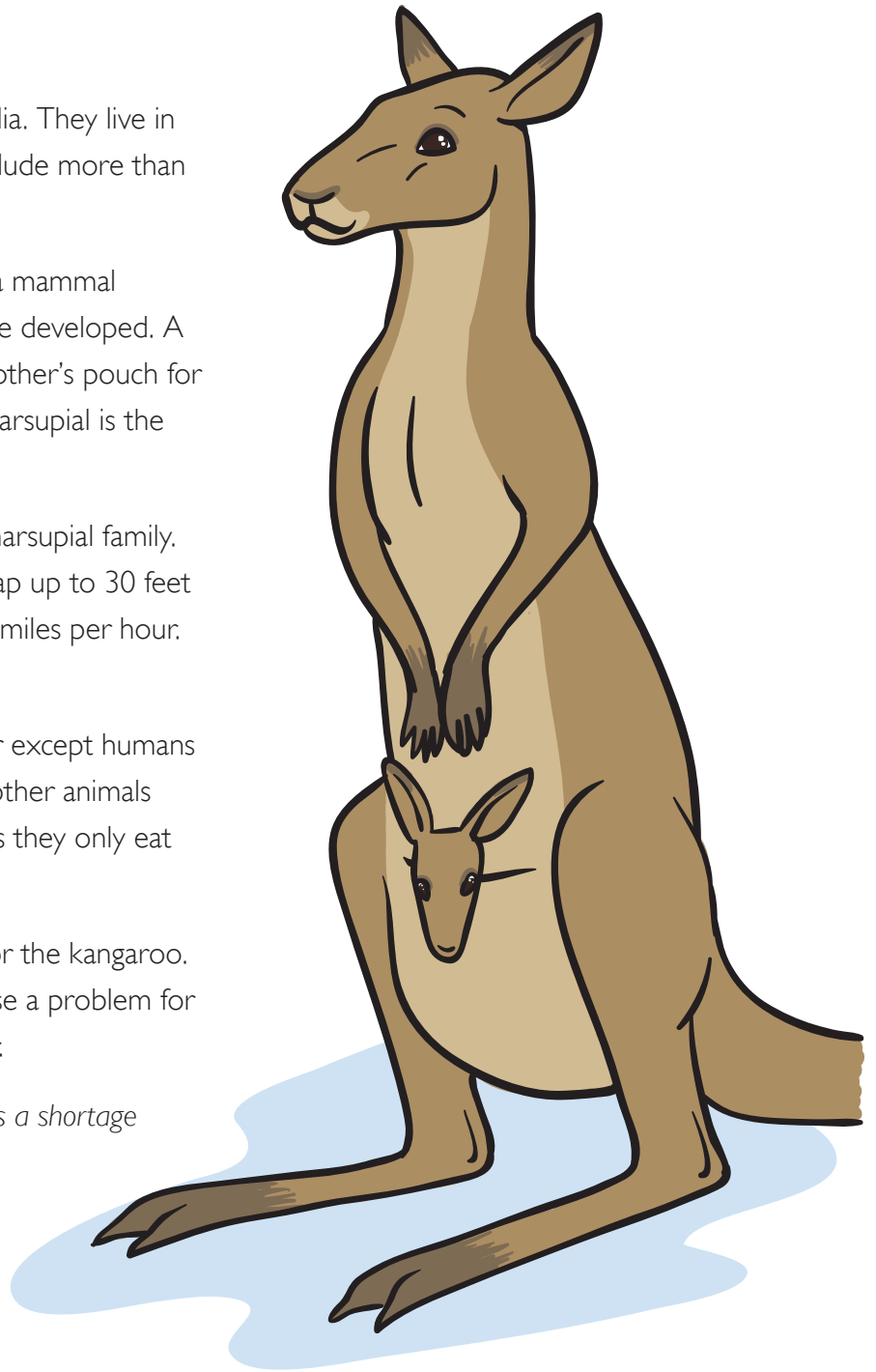
Kangaroos are marsupials. A marsupial is a mammal whose baby lives in a pouch until it is more developed. A baby kangaroo, called a joey, lives in its mother's pouch for about 8 months. Another example of a marsupial is the opossum.

The kangaroo is the tallest animal in the marsupial family. Large, powerful legs help the kangaroo leap up to 30 feet at a time. A kangaroo can travel up to 30 miles per hour. They also use their tail for balance.

The kangaroo has no real natural predator except humans and the dingo. They also do not prey on other animals because they are herbivores, which means they only eat plants.

Heat and drought* can cause problems for the kangaroo. Drought can occur at any time. It can cause a problem for the kangaroo because of the lack of water.

**drought: a period of dry weather that causes a shortage of water and plants to die over time.*



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Use the information from the article to answer the following questions. Use complete sentences when needed.

1. Kangaroos live in _____ Australia.

- A. Western
- B. Northern
- C. Eastern

2. What do you call an animal that only eats plants?

- A. Herbivore
- B. Carnivore
- C. Omnivore

3. TRUE or FALSE: The kangaroo is the shortest animal in the marsupial family. Circle one.

4. What is the name for a baby kangaroo and how long does this baby stay in its mother's pouch?
Write your answer in a complete sentence.
