

Australian Animals

Australia's animals are unique. They include marsupials and monotremes. Both are mammals. Marsupials carry their babies in pouches. Monotremes give birth to their young by laying eggs. However, they produce milk to feed their babies.

1. What is the subject of this passage? _____
2. Is the passage fiction or nonfiction? _____
3. What makes monotremes unique? _____
4. What makes marsupials unique? _____

Day 1

The **Tasmanian** devil is a ferocious marsupial that lives on the island of Tasmania. It has black fur and very sharp teeth. It eats other mammals, birds, and reptiles.

1. What kind of animal is the Tasmanian devil? _____
2. How did the **Tasmanian** part of its name come about? _____
3. Is the Tasmanian devil a carnivore or an herbivore? _____
4. Draw a picture of a Tasmanian devil on another sheet of paper.

Day 2

Because the duck-billed platypus hatches its young from eggs, it is a monotreme. It has soft fur, a snout, webbed feet and claws, and a flat tail like a beaver. It lives near rivers and creeks, where it eats crawfish, worms, and small fish.

1. What kind of animal is the duck-billed platypus? _____
2. What animal is the duck-billed platypus compared to? _____
3. List other animals that share one characteristic with the duck-billed platypus.

4. Draw a picture of a duck-billed platypus on another sheet of paper.

Day 3

Kangaroos are marsupials. Baby kangaroos, called joeys, live in their mother's pouches for five to six months. Kangaroos can hop at about 40 miles per hour (about 64.3 kph). They have strong hind legs for leaping about 30 to 40 feet (about 9 to 12 m). Kangaroos are herbivores.

1. What does an herbivore eat?
A. Meat B. Plants C. Metal
2. What kind of animal is a kangaroo? _____
3. How does a kangaroo get around? _____
4. Draw a picture of a kangaroo on another sheet of paper.

Day 4

Name _____

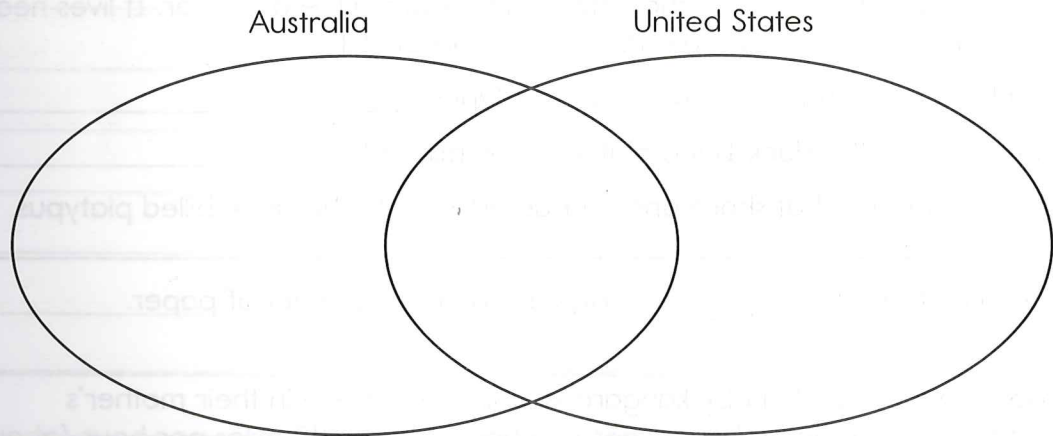
Australia and the United States: Alike or Different?

How are Australia and the United States alike? How are they different? Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere. The United States is in the Northern Hemisphere. Australia's summer months are December through February, which are the United States' winter months. Summer months in the United States are June through August, which are Australia's winter months. In the Northern Hemisphere, hurricanes and tornadoes spin in a clockwise direction. In the Southern Hemisphere, they spin in a counterclockwise direction.

Australians drive on the left side of the road, while people in the United States drive on the right side of the road. Australia's population is about 19 million. That's about the same as the total of the six most populated cities in the United States. Australia has kangaroos, anteaters, emus, and koalas, but in the United States, you'll find those animals only in zoos.

The official head of Australia's government is the queen of England. In the United States, it is the president. Australians elect people to a legislature, and a prime minister is the functional head of government. Australia has three major political parties, whereas the United States has only two. An Australian law says that people who are able to vote must vote. If not, they can be fined. The United States has no such law.

1. What does the title tell us the passage will be about? _____
2. Complete the Venn diagram using information from the passage.



3. What do you think is the most interesting difference between Australia and the United States? _____

