Marsupial Madness
Australia's Pouched Mammals

LA ZooCamplette
Summer 2020
PreK-2nd Grade
A Note to Parents and Guardians:

Zoo Camp is one of our favorite times of the year. We love getting to know our campers as we investigate animals, go on adventures, and – maybe most of all – have sing-alongs at the end of the day. We’re privileged to act as mentors in exploring nature for the children in our care.

This summer is a little different, but kids still need animals, adventures, and mentors to inspire them. We’re pleased to share ZooCampletees: four fun activity packs that each explore a different Zoo theme. All of us can be nature mentors, and we hope you use them as inspiration for your own adventures this summer. Just don’t forget to join us for a sing-along at the end of the day.

Supply List:
- paper plate
- scissors
- string/yarn
- paint
- Q-tips
- salt
- flour
- water
- bread
- butter/butter substitute
- newspaper/magazines
- glue
- paper
Famous Marsupials

Kangaroo
Kangaroos are the tallest marsupials & can grow up to 6.5 feet tall! They move around by hopping!

Koala
Koalas eat Eucalyptus & get water from the leaves. They are excellent climbers but sleep about 20 hours a day!

Wombat
Wombats are excellent diggers! Their pouches are upside down to prevent dirt from getting inside. Also their poop is cube-shaped, so it doesn't roll around!

Click here for a koala video!

Click here for a kangaroo video!

Click here for a wombat video!
Marsupials are animals with pouches. When their babies (called "Joeys") are born, they are as tiny as jelly beans! Joeys crawl into their mom's pouch & stay there until they are big enough to venture out on their own!

1. Cut a paper plate in half.
2. Align edges of plate together and staple or glue together.
3. Using Q-tips, paint a design on the plate using dots (traditional Australian Aboriginal style of art).
4. After the paint dries, hole punch each side and attach string.
5. Tie pouch around waist.

How do other types of animals carry their babies after they are born?
Parental Involvement: Medium

Salt Dough Joey

When marsupials are born, they do not have fur, and they cannot see or hear. However, the joey crawls through its mom's fur until it reaches her pouch. Inside the pouch, the joey will drink milk to grow and develop for about 6 months! When the joey grows too big for the pouch, they come out to dig, hop, or climb with their mom.

1. Mix 2 tablespoons flour with 1 tablespoon of salt.
2. Mix in 1 tablespoon of water until it looks like clay.
3. Mold dough into a "jelly bean" shape.
4. Use a toothpick to draw eyes and little arms.
5. Let joey dry and harden.
6. Paint joey pink. (optional)
7. Place joey into pouch.

Marsupials and humans are types of mammals. What makes an animal a mammal?
A popular snack of kids in Australia: Fairy Bread

Parental Involvement: Low

1. Choose a bread slice.
2. Spread butter or butter substitute onto bread.
3. Apply a layer of sprinkles to bread.
4. Enjoy eating your Fairy Bread while listening to a story!

Click here for story time with a wombat!
Wombats (like the one in the story) are excellent diggers. Their marsupial cousins, kangaroos, are excellent jumpers! Kangaroos can jump up to 25 feet in a single bound. However, koalas spend most of their time resting, about 20 hours a day!

Move Like a Marsupial

Parental Involvement: Low

Can you jump like a kangaroo?

Can you burrow like a wombat?

Can you rest like a koala?
Just like in the story, wombats eat a lot of different foods, but koalas eat only 1 type of food. Koalas eat eucalyptus! They eat so many eucalyptus leaves that they even smell like eucalyptus!

Paper Koala Face

Parental Involvement: Low

1. Rip newspaper or magazine pages into medium-sized pieces.
2. Glue pieces to a paper plate.
3. Decorate with eyes, nose, and ears.

Bonus: Spray with eucalyptus oil to smell like a koala!

Eucalyptus grows here in LA. Do you have Eucalyptus in your neighborhood?
Thank you for joining us! We hope to see you again soon!

Click here to sing along at Camp Rally