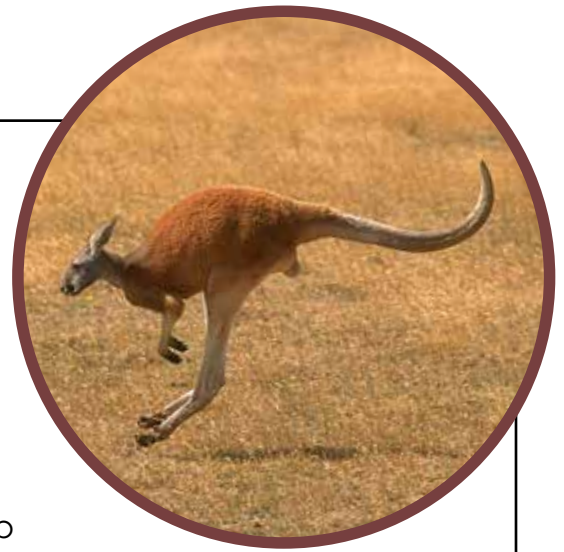


Name: _____

World's Largest Marsupial

By Guy Belleranti



What Australian mammal can leap 25 feet in one hop and move for short periods at 35 miles an hour? The red kangaroo. A full-grown male stands as tall as a 6-foot-tall person and weighs 200 pounds. This is slightly bigger than the grey kangaroo, making it the world's largest marsupial.

What's a marsupial? It's a mammal where the mother has a pouch for carrying, feeding, and protecting her young.



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and steer.



What do red kangaroos eat? Grass, leaves, and other vegetation. And guess what - they often regurgitate food and chew their cud just like a cow.

The red kangaroo's vegetarian diet provides much of its water. It can also go long periods without drinking. Staying in the shade, panting, and limiting most activity to nighttime helps the red kangaroo conserve water and stay cool.

Red kangaroos travel together in groups called mobs. Mobs include both males and females, with one male being dominant.

Males show their dominance by "boxing" with other males. They balance on their tails and try pushing each other off balance with their forearms or by kicking their hind legs. This kicking ability, along with their sharp claws, can also be used by kangaroos to defend against Australia's wild dog, the dingo.

Name: _____

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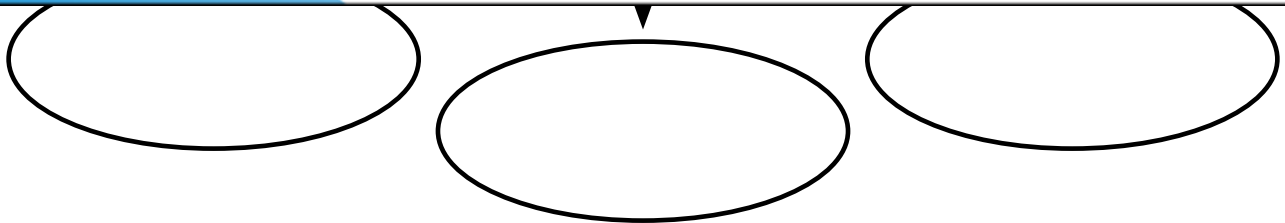
1. Red kangaroos are...
- a. omnivores
 - b. carnivores
 - c. herbivores
 - d. insectivores

Explain why you chose the answer above.



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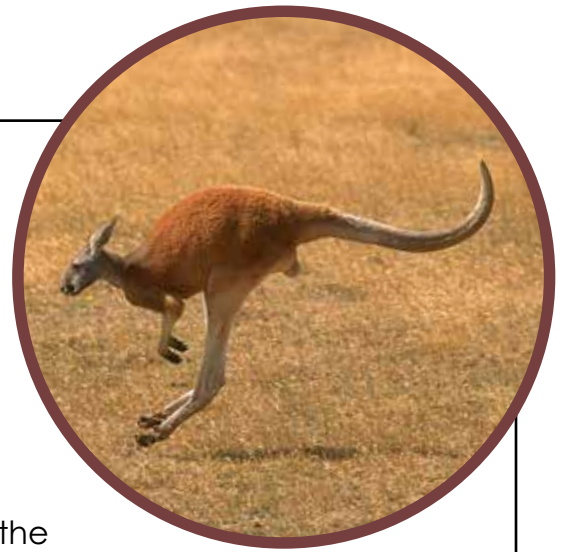
3. When does a baby kangaroo come out of its mother's pouch for the first time?
- a. about a month after it is born
 - b. a few months after it is born
 - c. about 8 months after it is born
 - d. when it is a year old
4. A group of kangaroos is called a _____.
5. A baby kangaroo is called a _____.

Name: _____

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____ n o d i g



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4. _____ i g p t a n n
hint: breathing heavily to cool off

5. _____ d r t e e s
hint: place that is dry most of the time

6. _____ a n d c e o m i n
hint: power over others; controlling

7. _____ p m i s u a l a r
hint: type of mammal in which the mother has a pouch for carrying her young

World's Largest Marsupial



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c. about 6 months after it is born

d. when it is a year old

4. A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

5. A baby kangaroo is called a joey.

World's Largest Marsupial



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hint: power over others; controlling

7. _____ **marsupial** _____

p m i s u a l a r

hint: type of mammal in which the mother has a pouch for carrying her young