

Their future is in our hands.

## CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES!

## DID YOU KNOW?

THAT KOALAS (GORILLAS AND CHIMPANZEES TOO) HAVE UNIQUE FINGERPRINTS JUST LIKE US!





Their future is in our hands.

### DID YOU KNOW?



Koalas are native to Australia. Sometimes koalas are called bears but this is not right, they are actually marsupials.



A marsupial is an animal with a pouch. Baby koalas are called joeys. Joeys sleep in their mother's pouch until they are big enough to ride on her back.

Koalas are nocturnal and are usually awake more during the night.



A place where an animal lives is called a habitat. A koala's habitat is a eucalypt forest where they eat eucalyptus leaves. Sometimes people call these leaves gum leaves.



Koalas are herbivores so they only eat plants. They can eat up to one kilogram of leaves every day.



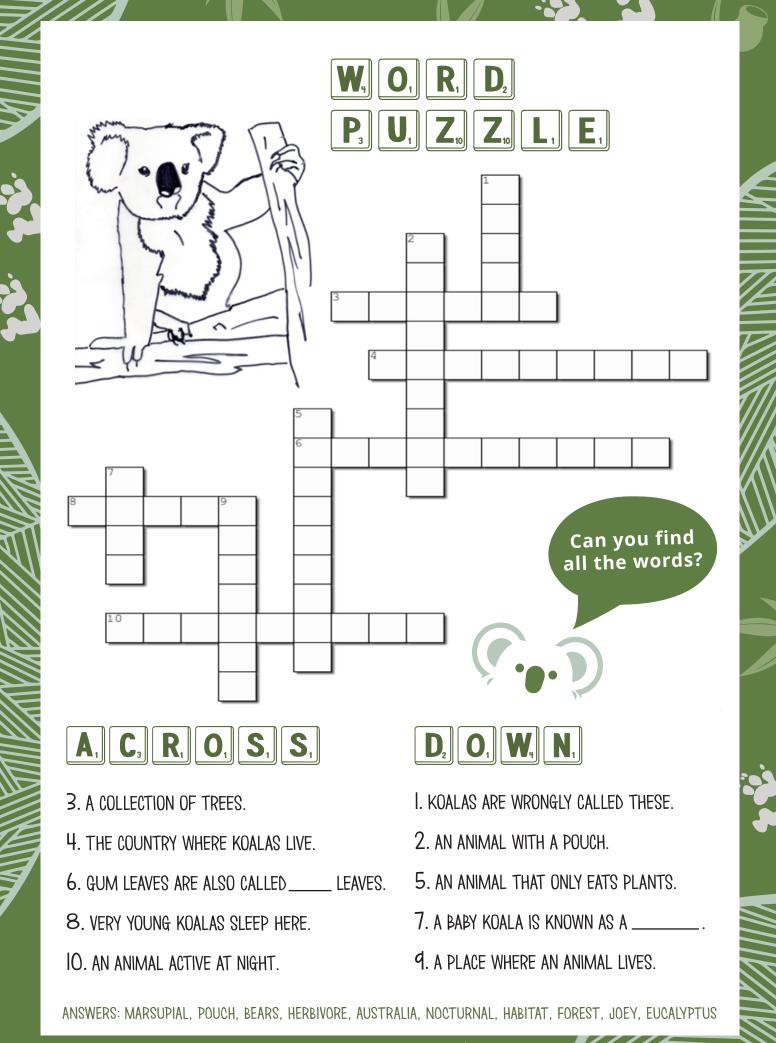
Koalas like to sleep and can sleep for 18 to 20 hours a day.



BALLINA FRANKLIN LIKES TO SLEEP DURING THE DAY!



JOEYS STAY CLOSE TO THEIR MOTHER UNTIL THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN.







# DID YOU KNOW?

Wild koalas are found from west of Cairns in Far North Queensland right down into South Australia, with the vast majority of the populations on the coastal side of the mountain ranges right down into Victoria.

Koalas rely almost totally on the moisture they obtain from the eucalypt leaf they eat, most populations are thus found occupying better quality eucalypt forests close to water courses and more fertile soils.

Where koalas are able to live in undisturbed forests, free of human interference, the colonies tend to be much healthier and do not suffer the diseases and problems that koalas face which live at the human/bush interface such as urban and rural areas.

#### THREATS TO KOALAS

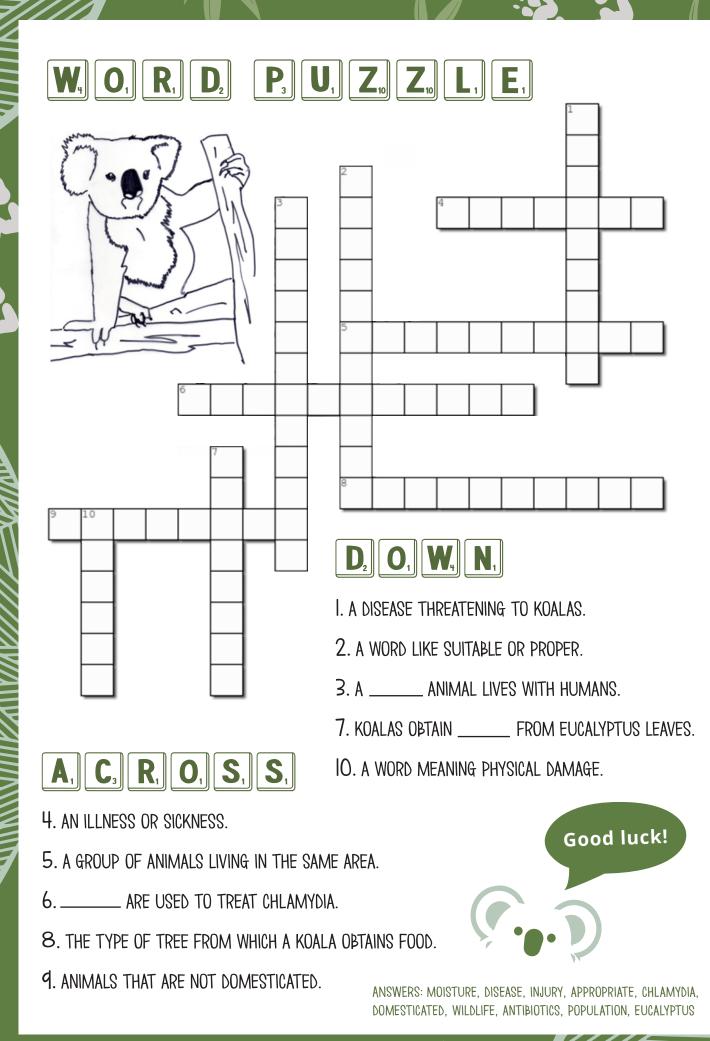
- **Habitat Loss** is the number one threat to our koala population. Clearing of eucalypt forests to harvest timber, make way for housing, roads or other developments is a major threat to koala populations.
- **Chlamydia** is another major threat to koalas. The bacterial disease can affect the eyes and/or the internal organs of the koala. This disease is treated with antibiotics but a koala is never completely cured.
  - **Motor Vehicle** accidents are a huge problem. Animals that are hit by a car can suffer terrible injuries and many do not survive. Unless rescued and provided with appropriate care a koala will most likely die.
- **Dog Attacks** are a major threat to koalas. Koalas will often wander into the territory of a domestic dog in search of food. Dogs will attack to protect their territory. A koala is no match for a dog, and they are frequently left with life threatening injuries. Although the injuries may not be visible externally, they are often very serious internal injuries that can be beyond treatment.



BARRINGTON XAVIER IS BLIND DUE TO CHLAMYDIA.



OCEAN SUMMER SURVIVED A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT BUT SADLY HER MOTHER DID NOT.



Koala Facts 2 Educational Resource