

The Kangaroo from Woolloomooloo

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The Kangaroo from Woolloomooloo is a story about a child's trip to the Sydney Zoo and the native Australian animals that he sees there. The full text of the story is provided on page 146. The story contains repetition and rhyme and is structured around the familiar question and answer technique: 'When I went to the Sydney Zoo, what did I see? The [bandicoot playing a flute], and the kangaroo from Woolloomooloo'.

Each animal is associated with an object that rhymes with its name (*cockatoo/didgeridoo, magpie/patch on one eye*, etc.), and the refrain *and the Kangaroo from Woolloomooloo* is repeated for each animal.

Main outcomes

To compare Australia to pupils' own country

To make a personalized storybook of *The Kangaroo from Woolloomooloo*

To make a zigzag book of Australian animals

To give a presentation of the story and to produce a display/exhibition of work covered

Linguistic objectives

Skills:

Listening: for general understanding and specific information while recognizing key pronunciation features

Speaking: repetition of the key lexical items and phrases providing pronunciation practice and leading to story sequencing (pupils anticipate and predict what comes next)

Reading: recognition of key vocabulary, reading for specific information, story sequencing and making sentences by joining lines that rhyme

Writing: labelling, filling out charts, copying and writing simple sentences

Functions/structures:

Asking for and giving information about the animals in the story using Yes/No questions

Asking for and giving information about abilities using the structures *Yes, I can./No, I can't*.

Describing animals (body parts, colour, size) using the verb *has got*, practising word order with adjectives and nouns

Asking and answering questions about the animals using *Is it a ...?* and *Yes, it is./No, it isn't*.

Vocabulary:

Animals: kangaroo, bandicoot, koala bear, rainbow snake, crocodile, goanna, wombat,

cockatoo, dingo, magpie, platypus

Rhyming words: Woolloomooloo, flute, rocking chair, big cream cake, smile, piano, party hat, didgeridoo, banjo, patch on one eye, who danced for us

Adjectives: big, fat, old, cheerful

Verbs: dance, sing, play (an instrument), jump, knit, make, smile, wear, see

Animal body parts: crest, (duck's) bill, pouch, wings, feathers, skin, fur, tail

Pronunciation:

Word and sentence stress, rhythm, individual sounds (phonemes), connected speech, syllable count

Cross-curricular links

Science: animal descriptions

Geography: talking about Australia (climate, population, etc.) to compare it with pupils' own country/countries

Art and craft: drawing, colouring, making *My Book of Australian Animals*

Music and drama: identifying musical instruments, singing a song, acting out the story

Learning strategies: memory training, prediction, classifying, comparing, sequencing, matching, hypothesizing

Citizenship: developing pupils' awareness of other countries where English is spoken and of animals which are native to a specific country

Cultural information

The story takes place at the Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney, Australia. See the website www.zoo.nsw.gov.au. Woolloomooloo is an inner-city area of Sydney. Woolloomooloo supposedly means baby black kangaroo, although most kangaroos in Australia are grey or reddish in colour.

Children may be familiar with some of the Australian animals, like kangaroos, crocodiles and koalas. See the appendix on page 62 for further information about the Australian animals featured in the story.

Appendix

Kangaroo: A marsupial found naturally only in Australia, New Guinea and neighbouring islands. There are three main types of kangaroo – grey, red and the wallaroo.

Bandicoot: A light-brown Australian marsupial similar to a rabbit. It hops and burrows but eats insects rather than vegetation – hence its long pointed snout.

Koala: A small, grey marsupial that lives only in the eucalyptus trees of Australia eating their leaves. A single baby is born and nurtured in its mother's pouch until fully formed, then carried on her back for a further six months.

Rainbow snake: In Australian Aboriginal mythology, a large multicoloured snake associated with water.

Crocodile: A greyish-green, lizard-like reptile found in the warm parts of Australia. It has a big, long snout. Females lay hard-shelled eggs in nests.

Goanna or Monitor lizard: It is greyish green with a long, pointed head and a long, forked tongue. All species of Monitor lizards lay eggs. There are about 28 species on Mainland Australia.

Wombat: An herbivorous mammal, primarily nocturnal, that lives in extensive underground burrows. The common wombat has coarse black hair and small ears. The hairy-nosed wombat has finer, grey hair and large ears.

Cockatoo: A large parrot with a long crest on its head. Most parrots are white/grey, tinged with pink or yellow. They feed on fruit or seeds.

Dingo: A wild, carnivorous, brown/grey dog.

Magpie: A bird of the crow family, related to the jay. The common magpie has a loud, chattering cry, a long, dark greenish black tail and short wings. Its underside is white.

Platypus: A grey-black amphibian with webbed feet like a duck, a broad tail and a soft, duck-like bill. Females lay eggs.

Animal and rhyming word cards

The Kangaroo from Woolloomooloo

Animal words

kangaroo

bandicoot

koala bear

rainbow snake

crocodile

goanna

wombat

cockatoo

dingo

maggie

platypus

Rhyming words

Woolloomooloo

flute

rocking chair

big cream cake

cheerful smile

grand piano

party hat

didgeridoo

swinging banjo

patch on one eye

who danced for us