

Koalas — Fluffy Friends of Australia

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

A koala is a small, fluffy animal that lives in Australia. It has round ears, a big flat **nose**, and thick soft fur. Its fur is mostly gray and white. Koalas are not bears, even though people sometimes call them "koala bears." They are **cute** animals that many people love all around the world.

Koalas love to **climb** up into tall **tree**s. They have sharp claws on their feet and hands that help them hold on tight to the branches. Once a koala finds a cozy spot high up in the branches, it likes to **sleep**. In fact, koalas can sleep for up to 18 hours every single day!

When a koala wakes up, it is time to **eat**! Koalas only eat the leaves of a tree called the eucalyptus. Each **leaf** has a strong smell and a bitter taste that most animals do not like. But the koala's body is very good at breaking down these tough leaves. A koala can eat about one kilogram of leaves every day.

A baby koala is called a joey. When a joey is born, it is very tiny — smaller than your thumb! The joey crawls into its mother's warm pouch to stay **safe**. It drinks its mother's milk and grows inside the pouch for about six months. Then it rides on its mother's back.

Today, koalas need our **care**. Many forests in Australia have been cut down, and fires have destroyed koala homes. Koalas also move very **slow**ly and cannot run from danger easily. By protecting their forests and keeping them safe, we can help these wonderful animals for many years to come.

A. Vocabulary

1. nose ____	a. a tall plant with a wooden trunk, branches, and leaves
2. cute ____	b. to put food in your mouth, chew it, and swallow it
3. climb ____	c. not moving fast; taking a long time to go somewhere
4. tree ____	d. not in any danger; protected from harm
5. sleep ____	e. the part of your face that you use to smell things
6. eat ____	f. very pretty or sweet to look at; making you feel happy
7. leaf ____	g. to move up or along something using your hands and feet
8. safe ____	h. to rest with your eyes closed and not be aware of things around you
9. care ____	i. a flat, green part that grows on a plant or tree

10. slow ____ j. to look after someone or something with kindness and attention



B. True or False

1. A koala is a type of bear. ____
2. Koalas live in Australia. ____
3. A koala has a big flat nose and thick soft fur. ____
4. Koalas like to climb trees. ____
5. Koalas can sleep for up to 18 hours a day. ____
6. Koalas eat meat and fish. ____
7. Baby koalas are called joeys. ____
8. A joey is born as big as a basketball. ____
9. Koalas can run very fast to escape from danger. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: sleep, tree, cute, safe, eat

1. Many people think the koala is one of the most _____ animals in the world.

2. Koalas love to climb up into tall _____ s to find a place to rest.

3. A koala can _____ for up to 18 hours every single day.

4. The tiny joey crawls into its mother's pouch to stay _____.

5. When a koala wakes up, it is time to _____ eucalyptus leaves.

D. Comprehension Questions

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1. What does a koala look like? Describe two things about its body.

2. How do koalas hold on to tree branches?

3. What do koalas eat, and why is it special?

4. What is a joey, and how does it grow?

5. Why do koalas need our care and help today?

E. Discussion Questions

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1. Have you ever seen a koala in a zoo or on TV? What did you think?

2. What other animals live in a pouch? Can you name one?

3. What can you do to help protect animals like koalas?





Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-e, 2-f, 3-g, 4-a, 5-h, 6-b, 7-i, 8-d, 9-j, 10-c

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-cute, 2-tree, 3-sleep, 4-safe, 5-eat

D. Comprehension:

1. A koala has a big flat nose, round ears, and thick soft gray and white fur.
2. Koalas have sharp claws on their feet and hands that help them hold on tight to branches.
3. Koalas only eat the leaves of eucalyptus trees. These leaves have a bitter taste and a strong smell, but the koala's body is very good at breaking them down.
4. A baby koala is called a joey. When it is born, it is smaller than your thumb. The joey crawls into its mother's warm pouch and grows there for about six months. Then it rides on her back.
5. Koalas need our care because forests are being cut down, fires destroy their homes, and they move too slowly to escape from danger.

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