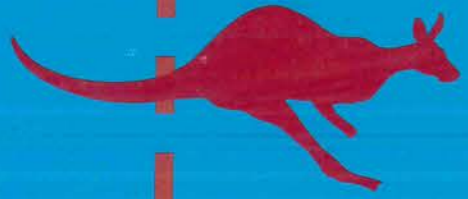


LifeCycles

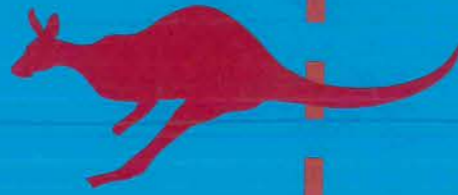
Carmilla de la Bédoyère

Joey to Kangaroo





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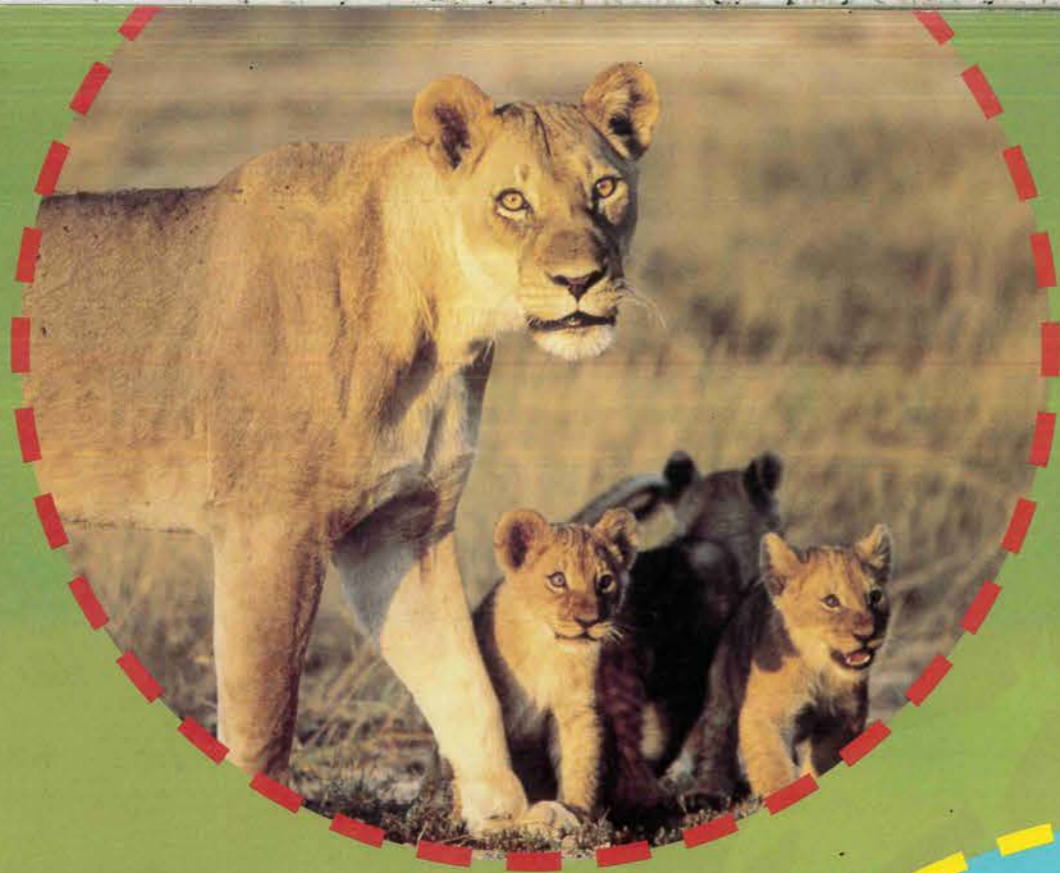
What is a kangaroo?

Kangaroos are **mammals**. Mammals have fur and they give birth to babies, which they feed with milk.

Kangaroos belong to a strange group of mammals called **marsupials**. They give birth to babies long before the babies are fully formed.

⇐ A kangaroo gives birth to only one baby at a time.

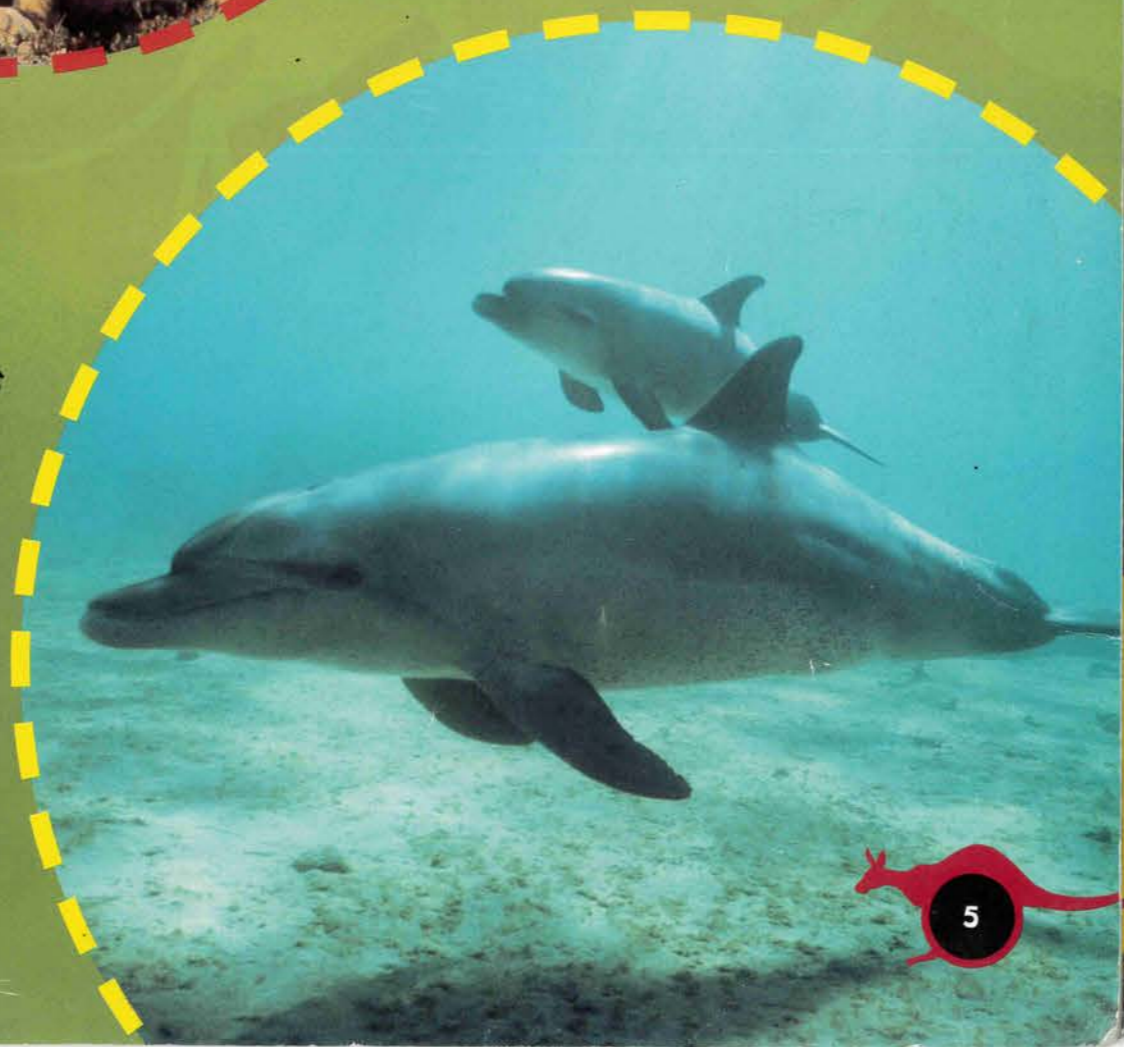




⇐ Female lions have several babies at the same time.

⇓ Dolphins are mammals that live in the sea.

Most mammal mothers keep their babies inside their body until they are fully formed. Most mammals have several babies at a time.



Animals with pouches

A marsupial baby is tiny when it is born. A marsupial mother has a special **pouch**. She keeps the baby in her pouch while it grows bigger.

There are nearly 300 different types of marsupial. Most of them live in Australia or South America.

⇐ Virginia opossums live in North America. They have up to 13 babies at a time.



Red kangaroos are the largest marsupials in the world. Kangaroos have long, strong legs that are perfect for jumping across Australia's wide grasslands.

↓ A young kangaroo is carried safely in its mother's pouch.



↑ Koalas are marsupials that climb trees.



The story of a kangaroo

A baby kangaroo is called a **joey**. When it is born, a joey is not much bigger than a fingernail.

The **newborn** joey makes an incredible journey to reach its mother's pouch.

The story of how a living thing changes and grows is called a **life cycle**.

⇒ A kangaroo's life cycle has three stages.



Joey in pouch



Newborn joey

3

Adult kangaroo

9



Fighting jacks

Before a female kangaroo can give birth, she has to **mate** with a male kangaroo. Male kangaroos are known as bucks, boomers, old men and jacks.

↴ Red kangaroo males have reddish fur, but females have grey fur.



When jacks want to mate with females, they fight with one another. They use their front paws to hit, or box, each other.

The winning jack scares the other males away. Then he mates with the females.

⇒ Fighting jacks kick each other with their enormous back legs.

