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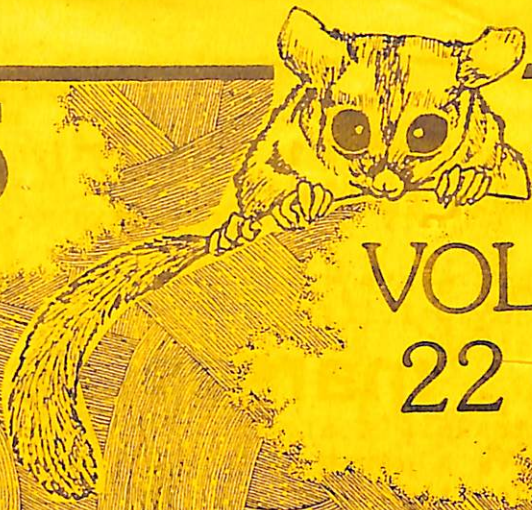
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VOL.

22

NATURE
SEPTEMBER

NOTES



Nature Notes is a production of the
Maroondah Region and the Healesville
Sanctuary Education Service.

This month's edition gives you information
and activities about a class of animals
called

marsupials.

Marsupials are animals where the females
have a pouch in which their babies live
when they are very small.

List the marsupials you know of.


.....
.....
.....

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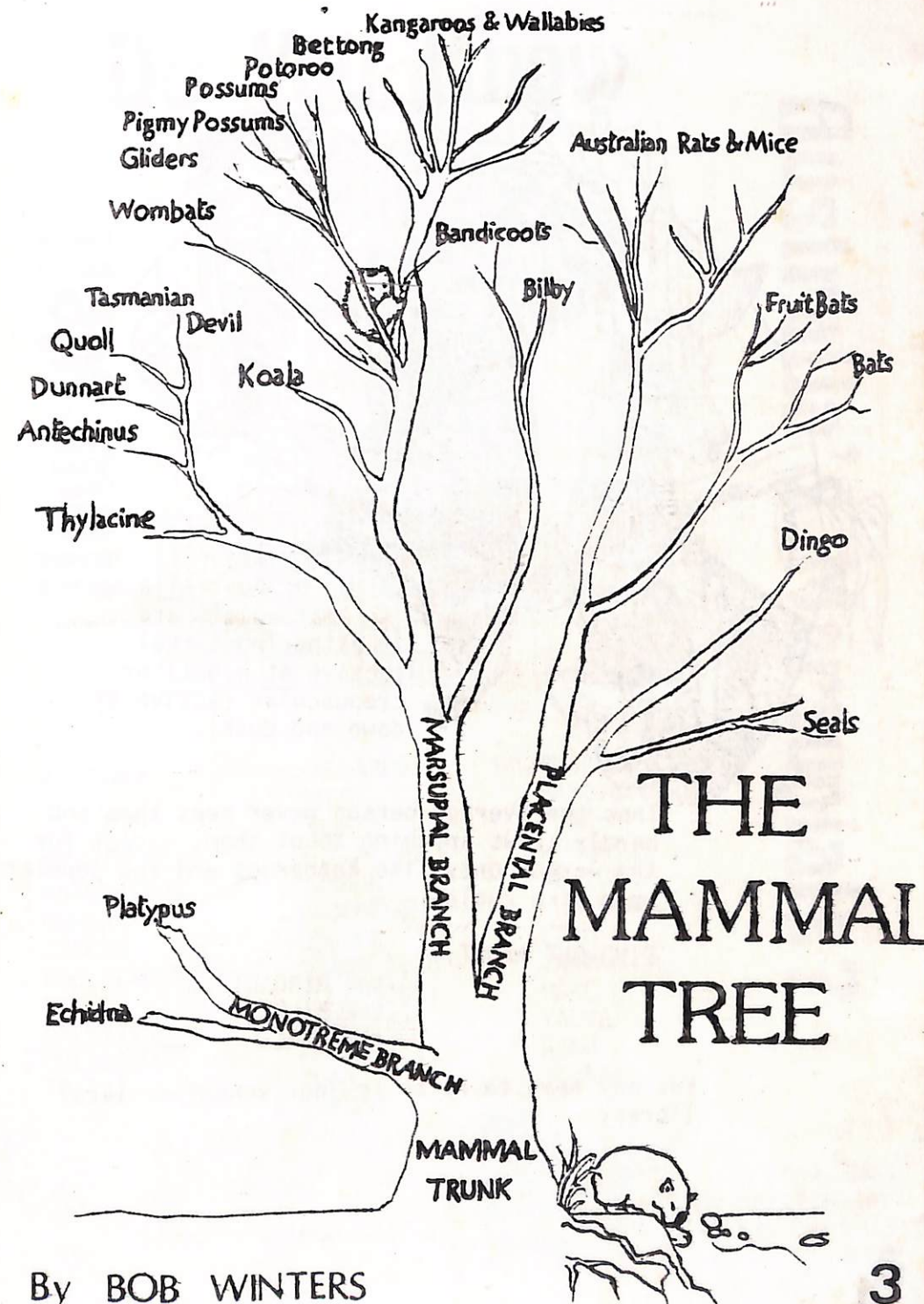
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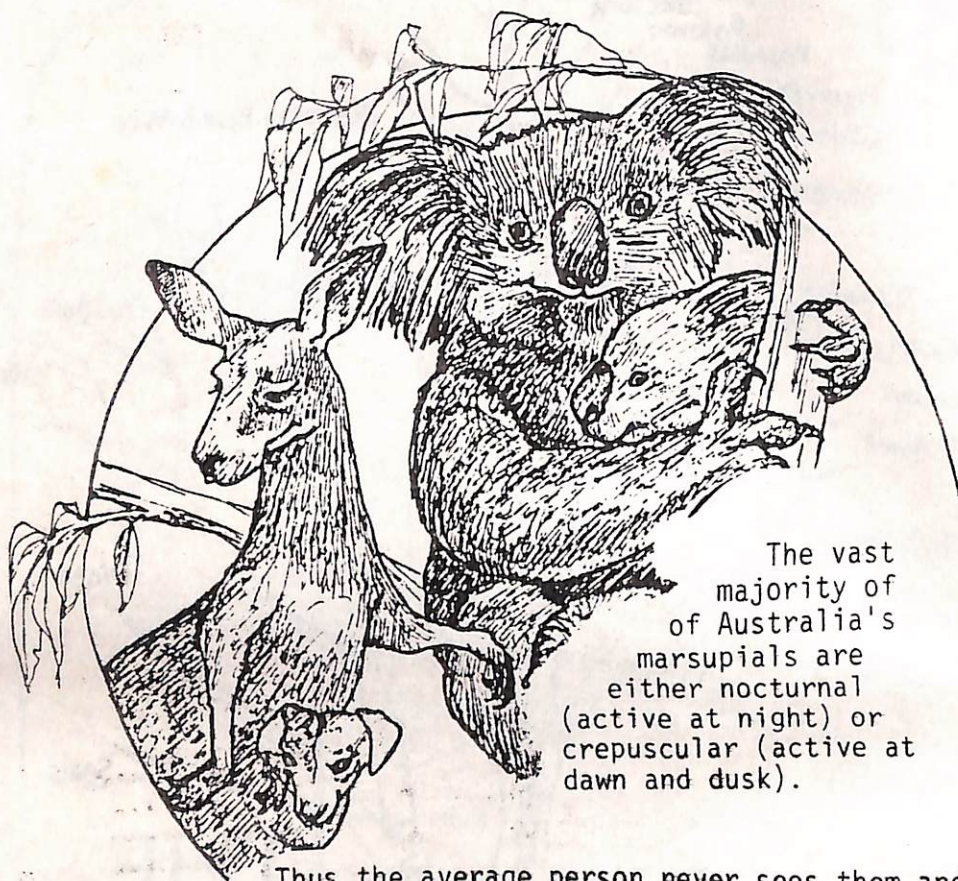
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The vast majority of Australia's marsupials are either nocturnal (active at night) or crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk).

Thus the average person never sees them and hardly knows anything about them, except for the larger ones like kangaroos and the popular ones like koalas.

FIND OUT ABOUT.....

...the NINGAUI...
...the BILBY...
...the MARL.

You may need to refer to your school or local library.

Do You Know

FIND THE 37 AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS

HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE.

How Well

K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	O	R	A	L	L	A	W
A	O	B	B	L	K	C	D	D	G	D	K	E	I	P
F	T	A	I	G	R	N	R	H	N	A	K	D	L	Y
Q	U	O	L	L	I	A	U	J	O	L	O	U	I	N
S	N	K	B	A	M	L	M	N	T	G	U	N	O	I
U	G	A	Y	A	T	U	P	M	T	Y	Q	N	T	M
G	O	N	S	U	N	I	H	C	E	T	N	A	H	A
A	O	Q	U	E	N	D	A	T	B	E	B	R	Y	K
R	L	I	U	A	G	N	I	N	U	M	O	T	L	L
G	P	A	Q	R	N	C	S	C	O	A	T	U	A	U
L	V	B	M	W	U	Y	A	W	O	B	N	C	C	Y
I	D	O	E	S	M	I	N	T	H	O	P	S	I	S
D	E	B	C	F	B	R	A	M	M	A	T	G	N	H
E	I	U	J	P	A	D	E	M	E	L	O	N	E	K
R	S	C	R	E	T	S	E	R	O	F	U	N	I	N
L	M	K	N	O	O	L	B	E	N	G	E	R	N	O

KANGAROO
QUOLL
NINGAUI
SMINTHOPSIS
ANTECHINUS
NUMBAT
CUSCUS
NOOLBENDER
MARDO
DALGYTE
QUENDA
TO-ILI

WALLAROO
BILBY
QUOKKA
THYLACINE
DUNNART
PADEMELON
BOBUCK
SUGAR GLIDER
YULKAMINYI
FORESTER
MALA
TUAN
TUNGOO

KOALA
BANDICOOT
PUTAYA
WOMBAT
BETTONG
PHASCOGALE
EURO
TAMMAR
MARL
YALVA
NINU
TNUNKA



Thankyou Taronga Zoo Education Service for this activity.

Australia's Marsupials?

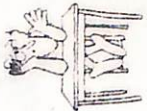
kangaroos



Kangaroos, like all marsupials, do not give birth to fully developed young. At birth, the tiny kangaroo is only half formed. Just before birth the mother cleans the pouch and sits upright with her back against a tree. The newborn kangaroo must crawl through the fur towards the pouch alone.

When the young kangaroo enters the pouch it finds one of the mother's nipples and attaches its mouth to it. The nipple swells within its mouth and the tiny kangaroo cannot be removed from its mother without being badly hurt. Over the next eight months its back legs, ears, eyes and tail develop and its fur grows. The mother then shoos the joey out of her pouch but it can still put its head back into the pouch to drink milk from the nipple.

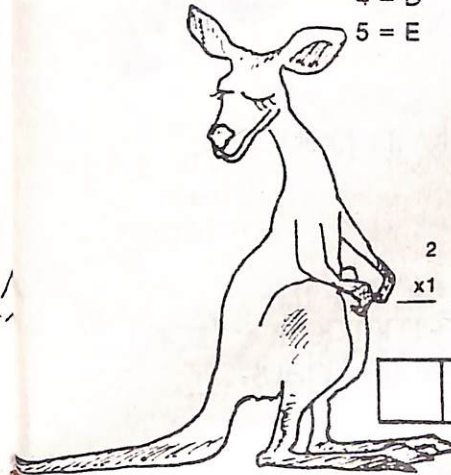
From: 'Amazing Animals of Australia'
by The Jabiru Press



What is the common name given to the female red kangaroo ?

1 = A	6 = F	11 = K	16 = P	21 = U	26 = Z
2 = B	7 = G	12 = L	17 = Q	22 = V	
3 = C	8 = H	13 = M	18 = R	23 = W	
4 = D	9 = I	14 = N	19 = S	24 = X	
5 = E	10 = J	15 = O	20 = T	25 = Y	

Do every sum and turn the answer to each into a letter using the key. These letters will spell out the answer.



2	6	7	13
x1	x2	x3	-8

--	--	--	--	--

5	8	5	25	7
+1	+4	x5	÷5	+11

--	--	--	--	--

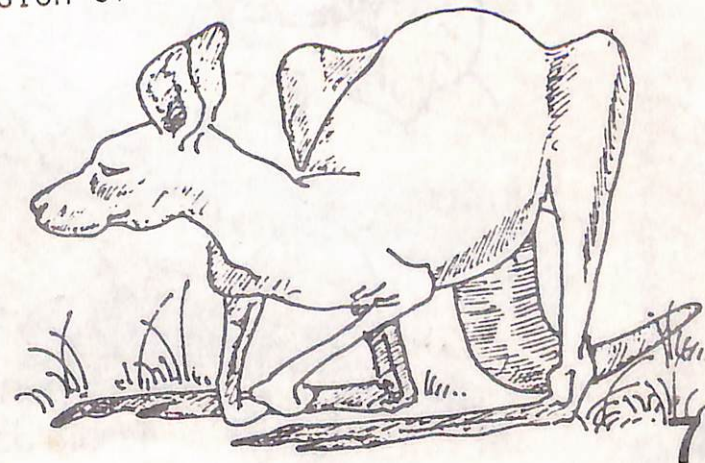
colour

these drawings.

Turn to the next page to see the progression of a baby koala.



Thankyou Melbourne Zoo Education Service for these drawings!



BABY KOALAS

Summer

- Gestation Period
34-36 days

- Birth.
Baby Koala crawls
to pouch

Autumn

- Totally in pouch

Winter

- First emergence from
pouch 180 days

Spring

- Rides on mothers back
250 days

Summer

- Independent young
koala 330 days

From the Healesville
Sanctuary Koala Enclosure

Moveable

MATERIALS NEEDED

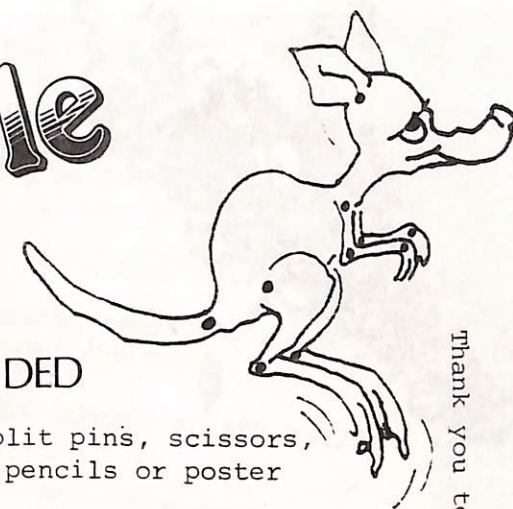
- stiff white cardboard, split pins, scissors, pencil, textas, coloured pencils or poster paints, a hole punch.

METHOD

- design a marsupial creature.
Inspiration should come from your observations of animals.
Consider - body parts
 - movement
 - skin covering - design
 - texture
 - colour
- decide which parts of the animal are to move.
- draw the various parts onto a sheet of cardboard with a pencil
- cut out the parts
- decorate each part
- punch holes in places where the split pins will go
- join the moving animal together

Cardboard Marsupials.

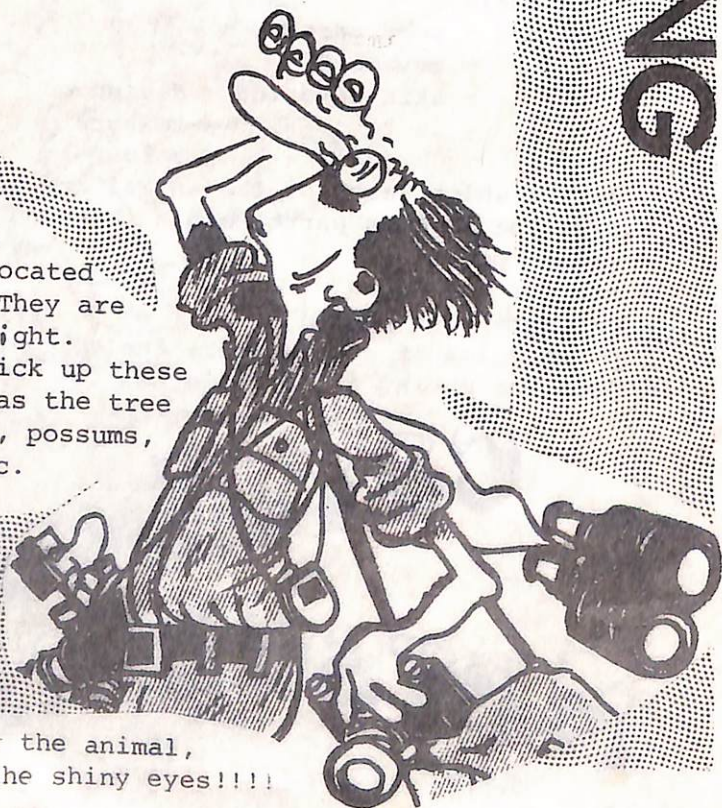
Thank you to the Melbourne Zoo Education Service for this drawing.





As the majority of Australian marsupials are nocturnal - which means active at night - the most obvious way to see them is with a light.

Larger marsupials, like the kangaroo and wallaby may be located during daytime. They are also active at night. Spotlights can pick up these animals as well as the tree dwelling mammals, possums, koalas, tuans etc.



HINT: Don't look for the animal, but look for the shiny eyes!!!!

SPOTLIGHTING

BRUSH-TAIL
POSSUM



The powerful white light beams reflects like piercing jewels from the eyes of the startled animals. They often remain still which allows you to scan them with binoculars.

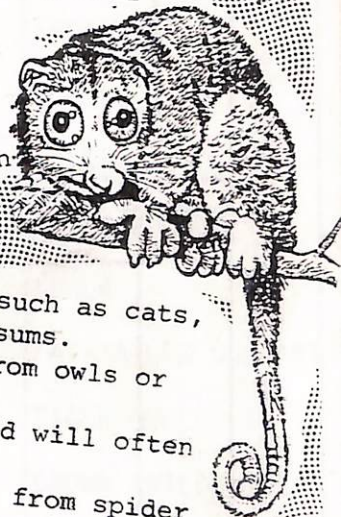


You will mainly see animals such as cats, brush-tail and ring-tail possums. Reflections may also arise from owls or frogmouth eyes. Nocturnal birds when disturbed will often fly away. Other reflections may be seen from spider or insect eyes, shiny leaves or droplets of water.

WARNING: Do not upset or annoy farmers cattle and sheep.
WHY?????



RING-TAIL
POSSUM



Spotlighting can be a fun experience.

You will need a very high powered torch or spotlight and binoculars. (A powerful spotlight connected to a battery or a 'Big Jim' is the most convenient light source.)


Walk through timbered areas and shine your light high into the trees.

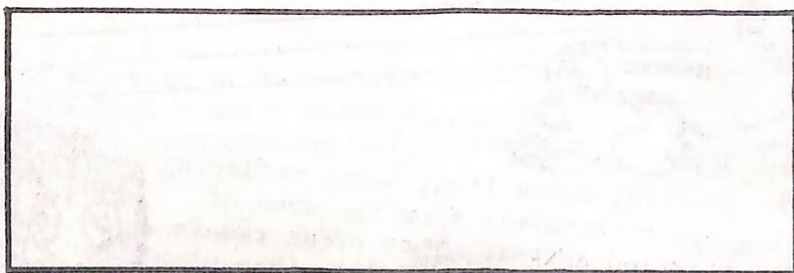
WHAT ANIMALS DO YOU EXPECT TO SEE ?????

RECORD YOUR FINDINGS

SPOTLIGHTING

DATE _____ TIME STARTED _____ TIME FINISHED _____

LOCATION _____ Draw a map here. 



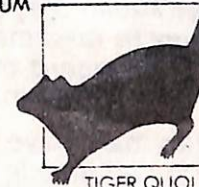
TIME	SPECIES (Animal Observed)	NUMBER	HABITAT (Location)



BROWN ANTECHINUS



EASTERN PIGMY-POSSUM



TIGER QUOLL



LONG-NOSED POTOROO

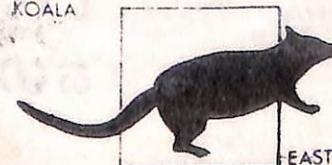
What Are You ?

Match the mammals which are the same.

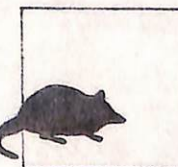
OLD NAMES GIVEN BY EARLY SETTLERS.	HINT	NEW NAMES
1. NATIVE CAT	spots	FRUIT BAT
2. FLYING FOX	wings	WOMBAT
3. BROWN MARSUPIAL MOUSE	marsupial	EASTERN QUOLL
4. KANGAROO RAT	kangar-00	PIGMY POSSUM
5. BADGER	big & round	KOALA
6. NATIVE BEAR	climbs	FAT-TAILED DUNNART
7. DOOR MOUSE POSSUM	not a mouse	TIGER QUOLL
8. TIGER CAT	spots	BROWN ANTECHINUS
9. FAT-TAILED MARSUPIAL MOUSE	not a mouse	POTOROO



KOALA



EASTERN QUOLL



FAT-TAILED DUNNART



COMMON WOMBAT

You will find the answers on page 14

Marsupial

Marsupial may seem a hard word to you
They're mammals with a difference and that's a clue
You've heard of a dog, a wolf and a cat
Now how do marsupials differ from that

Mammals have fur, they all have glands
They all suckle young from mammary glands
But marsupials are different they are quite strange
They have a pouch, now that's a change

They're all kinds of sizes, all kinds of shapes
Some live in trees doesn't mean they're apes
Now some do hop and some do glide
For a million years they have survived

They call them bears, they call them rats
They call them wolves and tiger cats
With appearances, food and habits the same
No wonder they've been given foreign names

Now take for example the marsupial mouse
It's not like the one you'd find in a house
Its appearance and food are like a shrew
So a name like mouse just won't do

From the biggest red roo trying its paces
To the planigale darting through spaces
All these marsupials so close at hand
Why take a name from a different land

We hope you've learned about these strange creatures
Because in Australia they're really big features
People come to see them from miles around
So please leave them all as they were found



COMMON WOMBAT
The wombat's hind foot
resembles a small
human footprint



Thankyou Queensland National
Parks and Wildlife Service
for this song.

answers

FROM PAGE 13

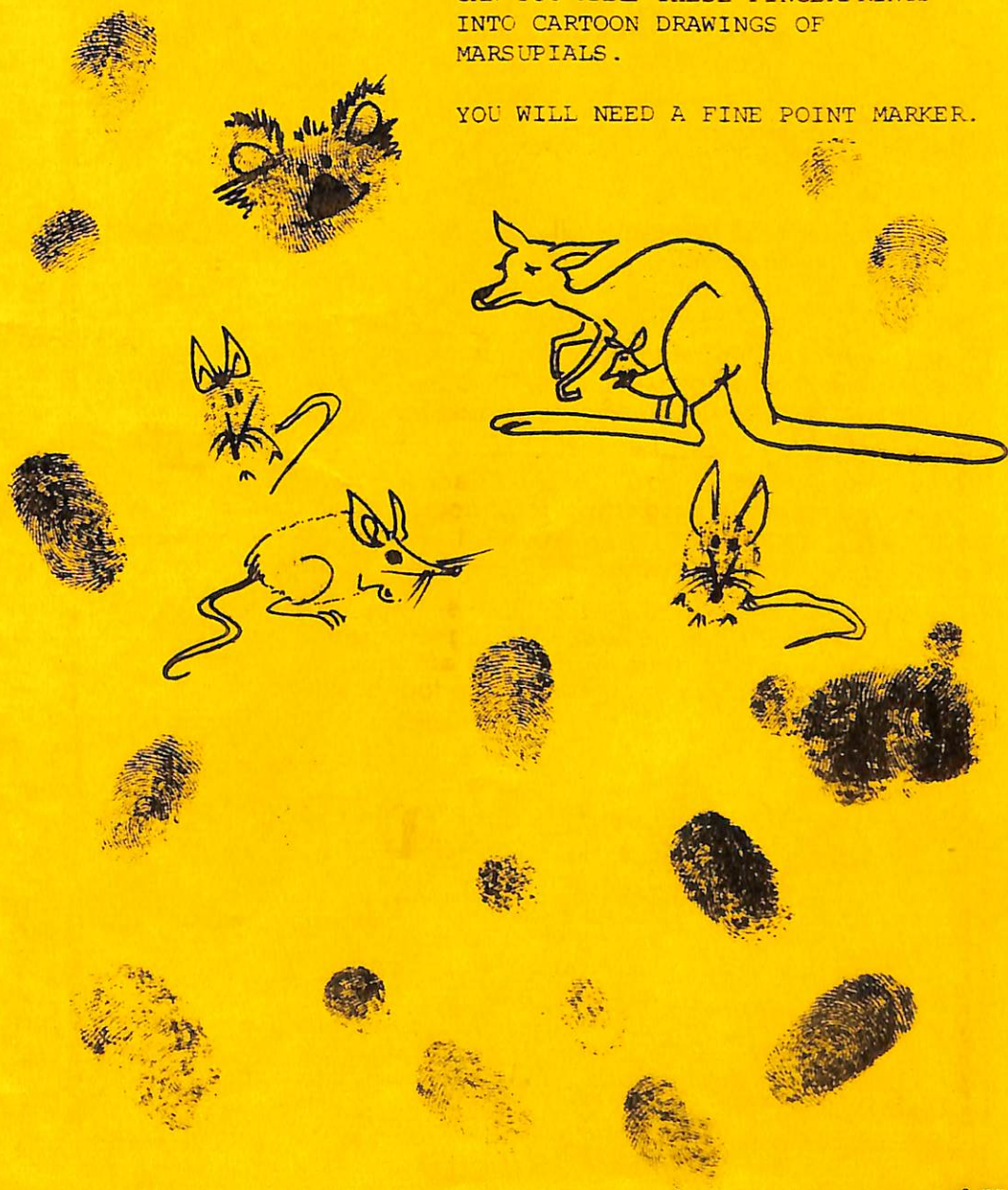
What Are You ?

1. NATIVE CAT = EASTERN QUOLL
2. FLYING FOX = FRUIT BAT
3. BROWN MARSUPIAL MOUSE = BROWN ANTECHINUS
4. KANGAROO RAT = POTOROO
5. BADGER = WOMBAT
6. NATIVE BEAR = KOALA
7. DOOR MOUSE POSSUM = PIGMY POSSUM
8. TIGER CAT = TIGER QUOLL
9. FAT-TAILED MARSUPIAL
MOUSE = FAT TAILED DUNNART

FINGERPRINTED MARSUPIALS

CAN YOU MAKE THESE FINGERPRINTS
INTO CARTOON DRAWINGS OF
MARSUPIALS.

YOU WILL NEED A FINE POINT MARKER.



HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER ?



1

How many days does the young koala ride on its mothers back ?

2

What is the most obvious way to see a nocturnal marsupial ?

3

What is the marsupial on page 5 which begins with the letter A ?

4

What does crepuscular mean ?

5

What pattern is on the Tiger Cat ?

6

Name the two animals from the Monotreme Branch ?



EASTERN GREY KANGAROO



SUGAR GLIDER

answers

1. 250 days.
2. With a torch.
3. Antechinus.
4. Active at dawn and dusk.
5. Spots.
6. Echidna and Platypus.

Healesville Sanctuary Education Service
P.O. BOX 248 HEALESVILLE 3777 Ph. (059) 62 3422