

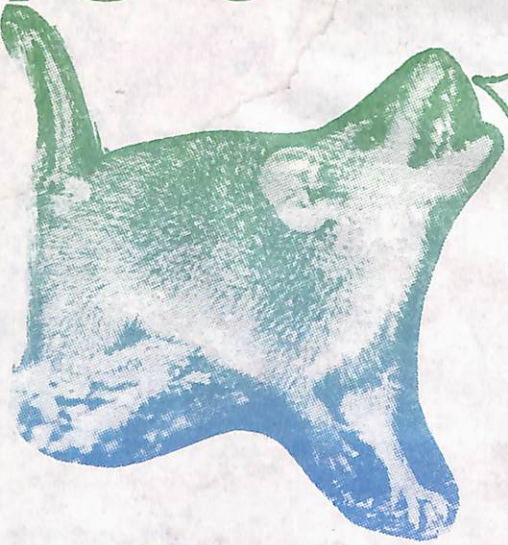


PROBE

Vol. 9
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MOUSE

IGHTY



"Don't come too close!
I have needie- sharp
teeth, and even though
I am only small, I am
as strong as a LION!
I have long claws and
am a very good climber.
I like to eat other
small animals.

Marsupial Mice

Small marsupial mice live among the leaf litter, in small holes, in caves, under logs and in similar sheltering places.

They are active hunters, and are similar to the Tasmanian Devil, tiger cat and native cats. They are "carnivores". Do you know what that means? They have a lot of sharp tearing teeth, eight incisors in the upper jaw and six in the lower jaw.

They range in size from tiny creatures to some as big as house rats. They are known as the Antechinus group, and have bristly, spiky hair.

The NINGAUIS species is only about 71 millimetres long, which is about half the size of the domestic mouse. Ningauis are only found in Australia. They seem to like areas with sandy surfaces. They eat insects including beetles, grasshoppers, moths and cockroaches. They kill their prey by biting around the head in a swift, savage attack. They hide in hollow branches, shelter under small thick bushes or dig burrows. The nest itself is made of leaves and bark.



THIS ANTECHINUS IS FEEDING
ON INSECT LARVA. LOOKS
LIKE HE IS ENJOYING HIS
MEAL!

They are very agile creatures and can run up walls of caves or over fallen tree trunks. They are creatures of the night. Can you find a word that has this meaning?(It begins with "n" and has 8 letters.) See if you can find out any more about these mice.



WHO AM I? I am a
mouse, but look like a
tiny kangaroo.

BEFORE PLANTING

THINK * what sort of tree do you want?

How big? Flowering? Evergreen?

* what do you want it for?

Shade? (All year around - or just summer)

To attract birds? (Native trees are best)

As a wind break? (Branches low down)

For beauty? (Flowers, Autumn colors?)

To hide something?

To climb? (No prickles!)

PLANTING A TREE.

I think I'll branch out into tree planting!

AFTER PLANTING

* Watering - give your tree a good soaking once a week rather than a light watering every day.

* Weeds - keep weeds clear of your tree.

* Check that your tree hasn't outgrown its stake.

* Any bothersome or colliding branches may be pruned after flowering & before winter.

HELP!



1 Preparing the ground



Remove weeds & grass.
Break up the soil.



Dig a hole into well prepared soil slightly deeper than the tube your tree is in & about a spade's width.

2



Stand tube in centre of hole to test its depth.

Remove plant by unrolling the wood veneer (or pots, tin etc.)

Carefully stand the tree in the hole, supporting it with one hand, & pressing down the soil with the other.



As I was walking through the city
I saw a sight I thought was pretty.
A little tree was growing there
Despite the concrete
And polluted air!

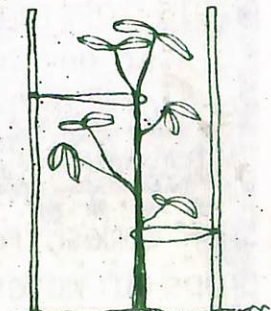


3 Gently break the "crust" around the neck of the plant (where the soil has gone hard). Fill the hole with good soil and leave a shallow "saucer" to collect the water.



Fill this saucer with water several times if the soil is dry.

4 Then fill the saucer with loose soil. Stake your tree if you want it to grow straight



Keep a diary of how quickly your tree grows!

WET

WINTER

RAIN
RAIN
GO AWAY

Come again another day
Little Suzie wants to
PLAY!



Well, readers, winter is with us once again. The weather is cold, with plenty of rain, hail, sleet, snow, thunder and lightening. We all prepare ourselves for winter in many ways. Can you make a list of things you do in winter to keep yourself cosy and healthy during this cold season?

IN: Comes from moisture in clouds. As clouds move, air tosses the tiny droplets of water. With this tossing and bumping the drops become bigger and heavier. They then fall to earth and are called raindrops.

W: Snow comes from clouds. Clouds are made of many drops of water. When it is very cold the water turns to ice. The pieces of ice turn into ice crystals and fall as snowflakes. Each snowflake looks like a lacy star. A snowflake has six points, and each one is different.

LIGHTNING:

Ice crystals and raindrops begin to fall within the cloud. As they scrape past each other, an electrical charge is built up. The lightning you see is a huge electric spark. You may be killed if you are struck by lightning. Buildings and trees are set on fire by the electric sparks from lightning. To escape lightning in the open, it is best to lie flat in a hollow away from trees.

THUNDER:

What is it? Long ago people said it meant the gods were angry. However it happens after the flash of lightning heats the air so greatly, causing a giant crash. Lightning and thunder happen in the same split second. Light travels a million times faster than sound. So we see the flash of lightning first, and later hear the clap of thunder.

BANG!

BOOM!

CRASH!

HAIL:

Looks like marbles of ice. They begin as a raindrop in a thunder cloud. It freezes in the upper cloud. As it starts to fall an aircurrent lifts it up again. It may make many up-and-down trips. This may make more layers of ice. Cut a hailstone in half. What do you see? What can happen in a bad hailstorm? See if you can find out.

SNOWBALL WORDS

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Build on these beginnings to make the word that fits the clue (use your dictionary to help you.)

e.g. thun + 3 letters = a storm with thunder.

THUNDER

1. Ha + 2 letters = frozen rain.
2. Sn + 2 letters = frozen water vapour which falls in white flakes.
3. Sk + 2 letters = long wooden runners fastened to feet for moving over snow.
4. Decid + 4 letters = losing its leaves each year.
5. Glac + 3 letters = a slow moving river of ice.
6. Hiber + 4 letters = to pass the winter in sleep.
7. Aval + 5 letters = a mass of snow and ice falling down a mountain.
8. Tob + 5 letters = a kind of sledge used on the snow.

* Now try to make up more of your own!