Black Swan

Black swans are an Australian bird that live mostly in the southeastern or southwestern part of the country. Their black feathers are tipped with white. They have a red bill and feet that are grayish-black. They are the only type of swan that is considered completely black. Adult black swans are usually between 43-56 inches (110-142 cm) long and weigh 8.2-19.8 pounds (3.7-9 kg). Their wingspan stretches between 5.2-6.6 feet (1.6-2 meters). A male is called a cob, and a female is called a pen.

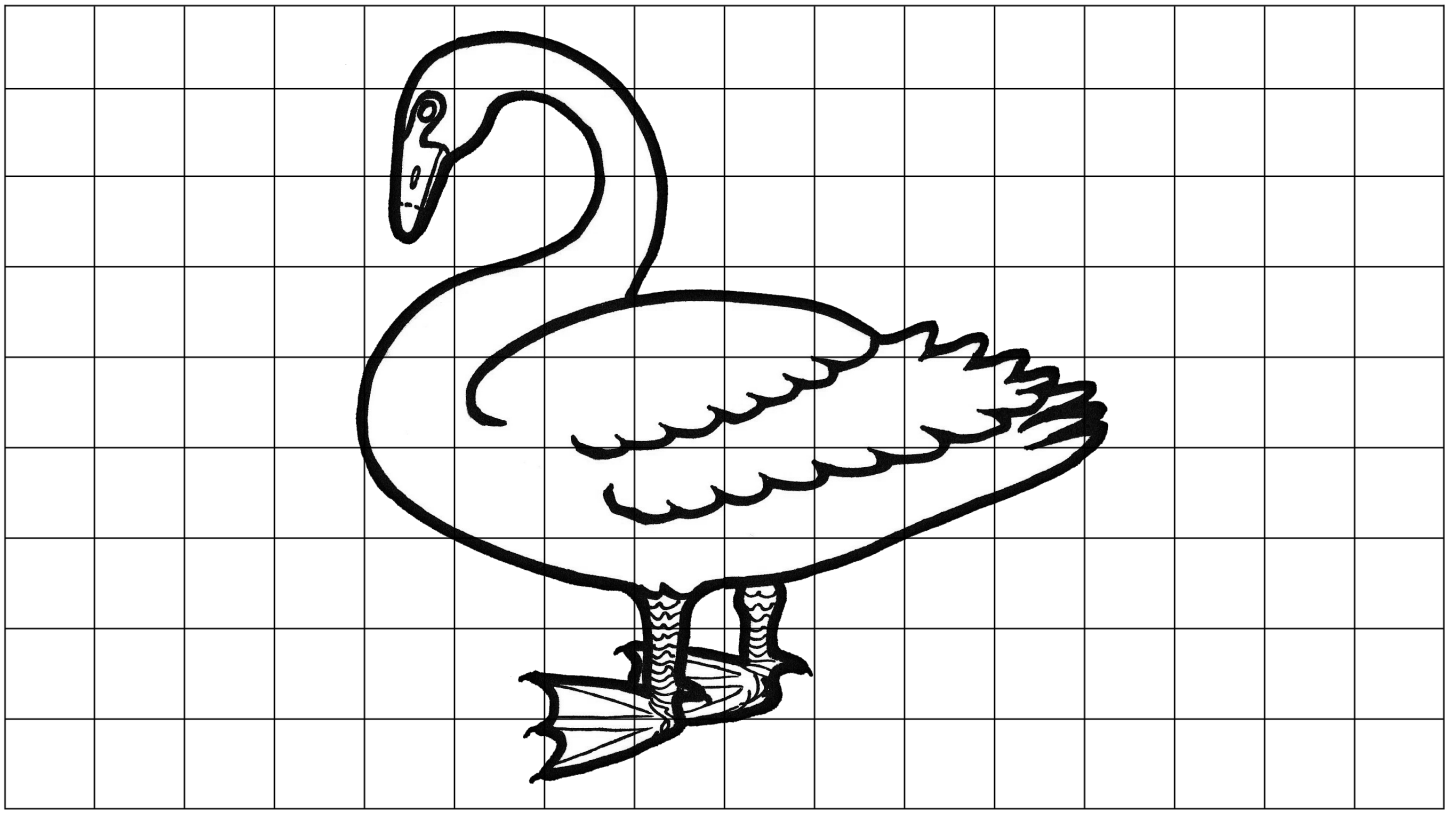
Their favorite place to nest is along the shores of marshes and ponds in the summer and on the shores of large lakes and bays in the winter. This is a good place for them to find their favorite food, water plants and grasses that grow along the shore.

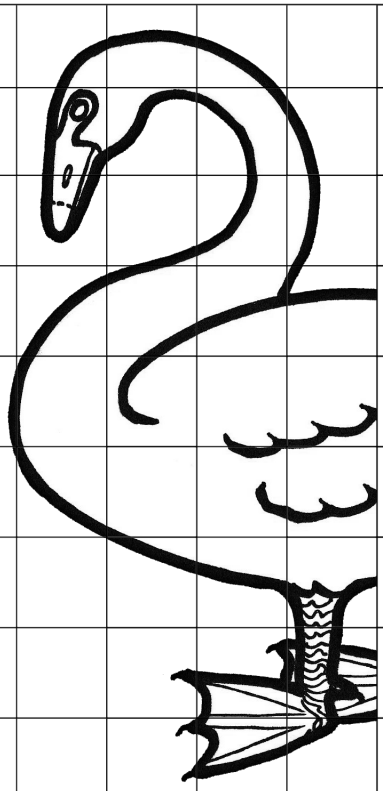
Swans are strong and graceful. When they fly, they move their wings slowly and keep their necks stretched out. When they are migrating, they fly in a V-formation. They are the fastest moving waterfowl in the air or on water.

Once a male and female swan become parents, they usually stay together for life. They build large nests out of plants and grass, where the female lays four to six eggs at a time. Both male and female black swans take turns sitting on the eggs while waiting for them to hatch. When the babies, called cygnets, hatch, both the males and the females help raise the offspring.

Follow these instructions to draw an black swan on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Cassowary

Southern cassowaries are another one of Australia's birds and one of the largest types of birds that cannot fly. They live in thick forests. Their bodies are covered with black feathers, except for their heads, which are bare and are blue and red. They have a type of helmet, called a casque, made of bone that they use to help them get through the thick forest. They are the heaviest birds in Australia, weighing up to 167.6 pounds (76 kg).

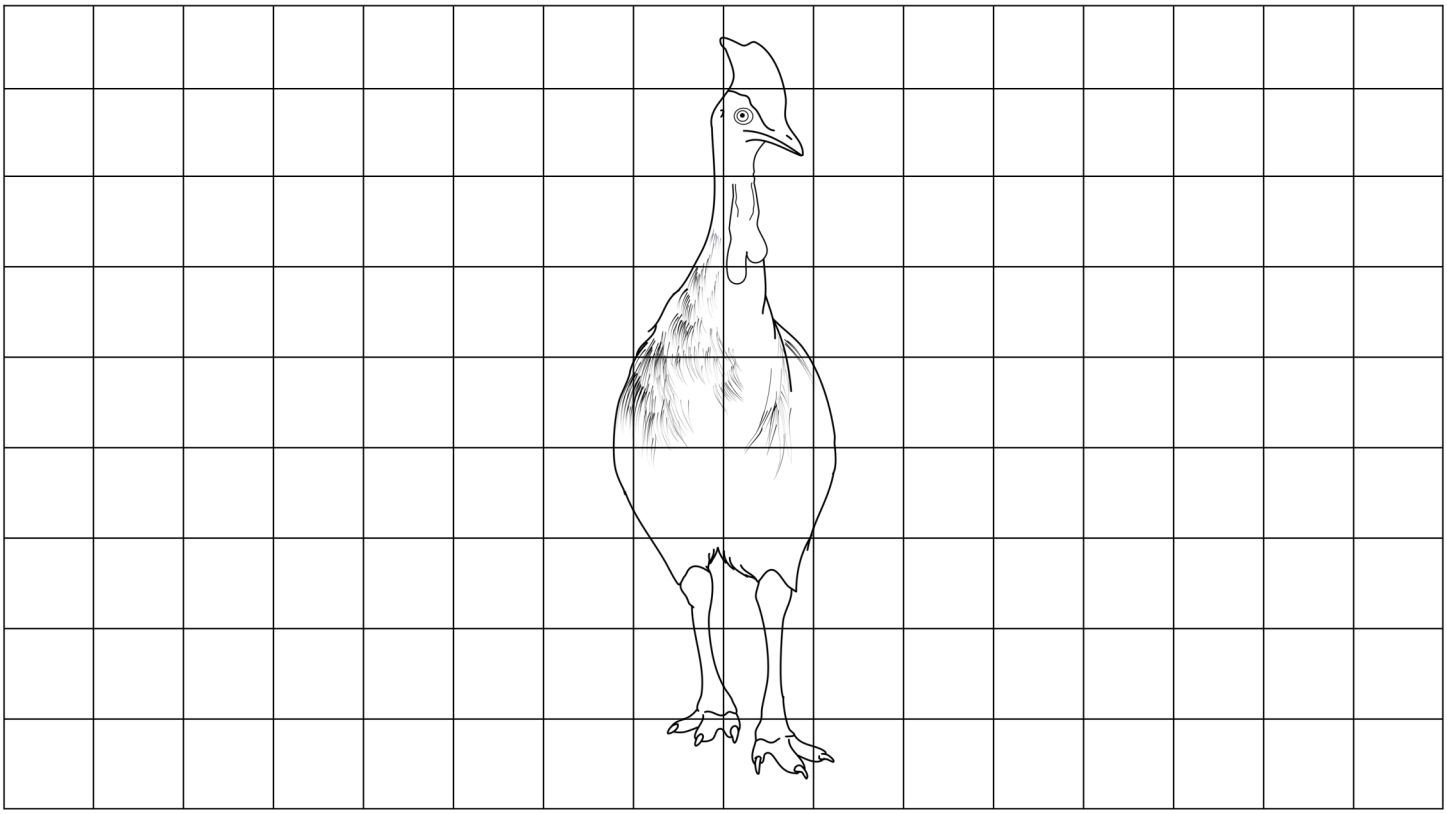
Cassowaries are known for eating large fruits and spreading seeds over great distances. This method of seed dispersal is very important. Some seeds even require the process of going through the cassowaries' digestive system in order to germinate. Although southern cassowaries live mainly in tropical rainforests, they also live in mangrove forests, swamps, and woodlands. They need a variety of habitats to find the fruits they need to survive.

Female cassowaries lay from 3 to 5 large green eggs at one time. After the eggs are laid, the females leave the nests. The male birds sit on the nest and raises the chicks. After they are ready to be on their own, the males chase them away.

Southern cassowaries in Australia are an endangered species. They are dying from disease and because they are losing their habitat. Natural disasters often force the birds to live closer to people, which makes them more vulnerable to motor vehicle accidents.

Follow these instructions to draw a cassowary on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Echidna

The short-beaked echidna is one of Australia's most unique native mammals. Echidnas are one of only two types of mammals known as monotremes. Monotremes lay eggs like birds and reptiles, but they have hair and feed their young with milk from the mother like mammals. Echidnas hibernate in the winter but, because they have only a few sweat glands and cannot pant to cool off, they need to find shelter from the extreme heat in the summer. They are usually about 12-18 inches (30-45 cm) long and weigh between 4-35 pounds (2-16 kg).

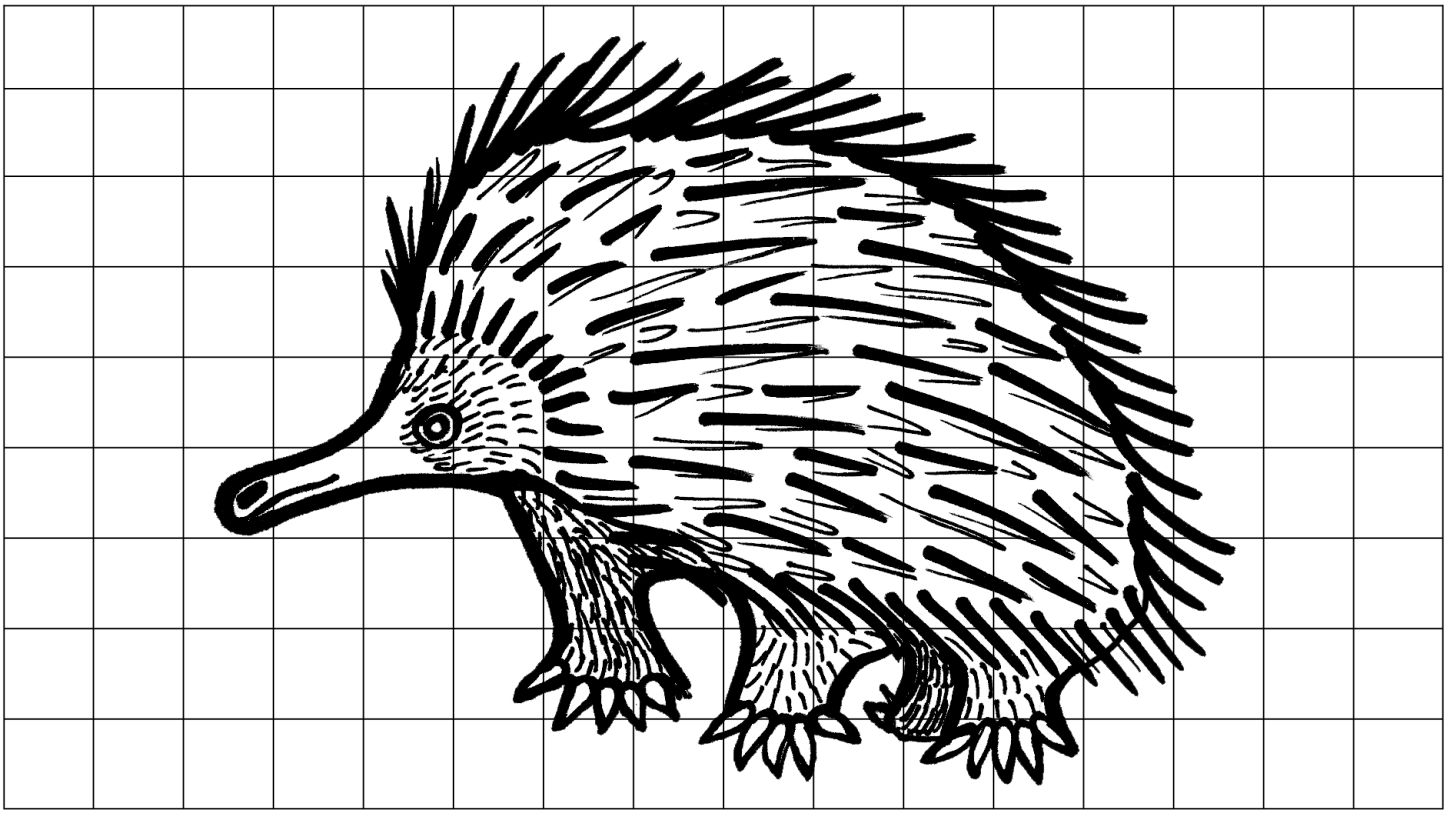
Echidnas are known for the sharp spines on their backs and sides that they use for protection. They also have strong claws. They use their claws to bury themselves in the ground for protection from enemies and to dig burrows to sleep in.

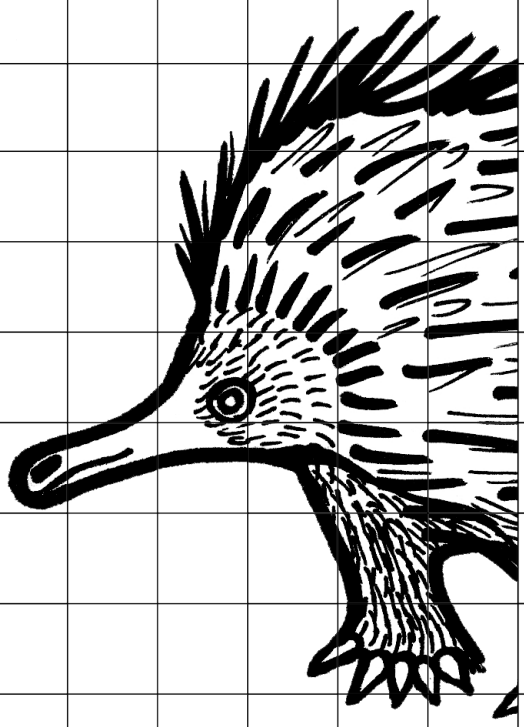
Echidnas have tiny eyes and slits for ears. They use their long, narrow snouts to eat. They dig into the dirt to find food. Their mouths only open far enough to let their tongues go in and out, so they use their long, sticky tongue to lick up animals like ants and termites. They don't have any teeth and use strong plates in their mouths to crush their food instead.

A mother echidna lays about one egg per year. The baby lives in a pouch on the mother, feeding on her milk, until it begins to grow spines. At that time, the mother leaves it in the burrow until it is about 6 or 7 months old.

Follow these instructions to draw an echidna on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Emu

Emus are the tallest native birds of Australia. They are the second-largest living bird, but like the southern cassowary, they cannot fly. They stand more than 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall and weigh about 100 pounds (45 kg). They have a good sense of sight and hearing. They also have a secondary eyelid that moves across their eyes to protect them from dust. They have brownish-black feathers, a dark gray head and neck, small wings, and long legs. They are fast runners and can run up to 30 miles (50 km) per hour. When emus are walking, their steps are about 3.3 feet (100 cm), but when running, a step can be as long as 9 feet (275 cm).

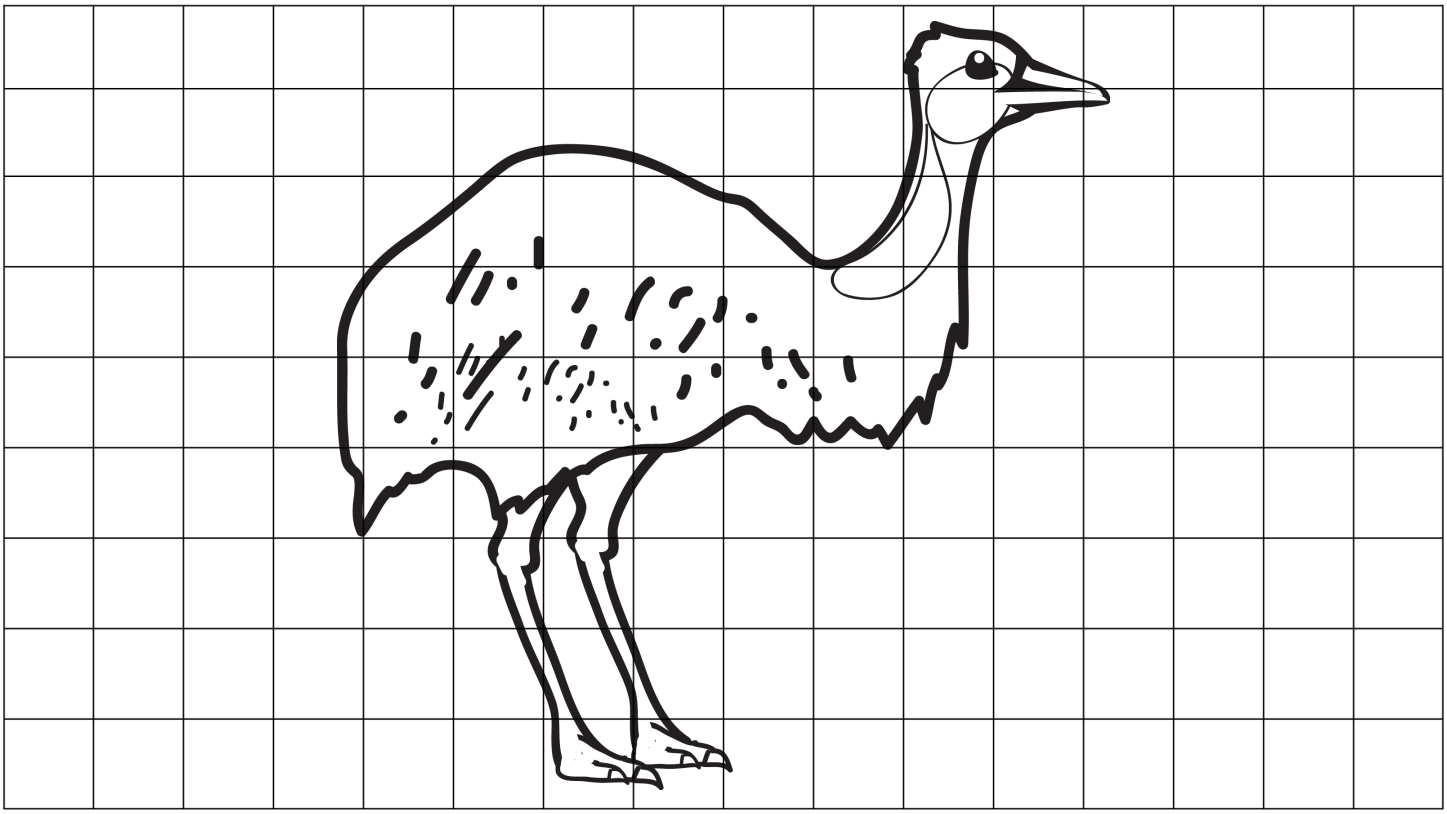
Emus can be found in most parts of Australia. They eat fruits, seeds, young plants, and insects, but farmers generally consider them to be pests because of the damage they can do to crops. They do not drink very often, but when abundant water is available, they drink large amounts at a time. Emus are active during the day and sleep at night. They do not sleep continuously, but wake about every 90 minutes, then go to sleep again.

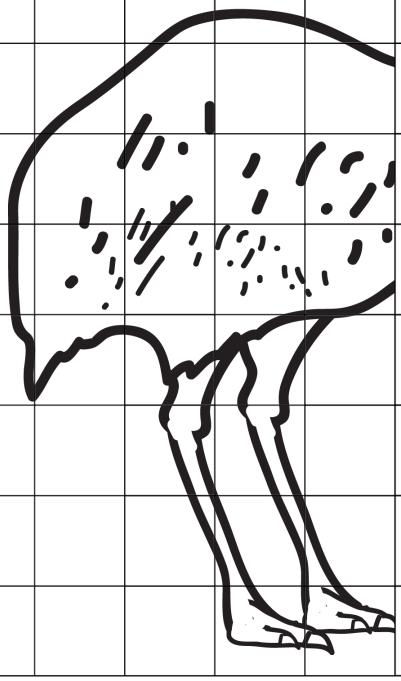
Emus lay between 5 and 15 eggs at a time, and the males sit on the nest until the eggs hatch. Often the male emus do not eat or drink much while sitting on the nest. When the baby emus hatch, the father takes care of them.

The main enemies of emus are dingoes and some eagles.

Follow these instructions to draw an emu on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Kangaroo

Kangaroos are marsupials native to Australia. They are known for their large hind feet and powerful hind legs that help them hop from place to place. The three main types of kangaroos in Australia are the red kangaroo, the eastern gray kangaroo, and the western gray kangaroo. Male red kangaroos are generally about 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall and weigh about 110 pounds (50 kg). They can, however, weigh up to about 187 pounds (85 kg) and be as tall as 6 feet (1.8 meters). They use their tail for balance and can jump over something as high as 7 feet (2 meters). Eastern gray kangaroos are slightly shorter. They can cover as much as 30 feet (9 meters) in one jump when necessary and can hop at speeds of 34 miles (55 km) per hour, though some have been clocked even faster.

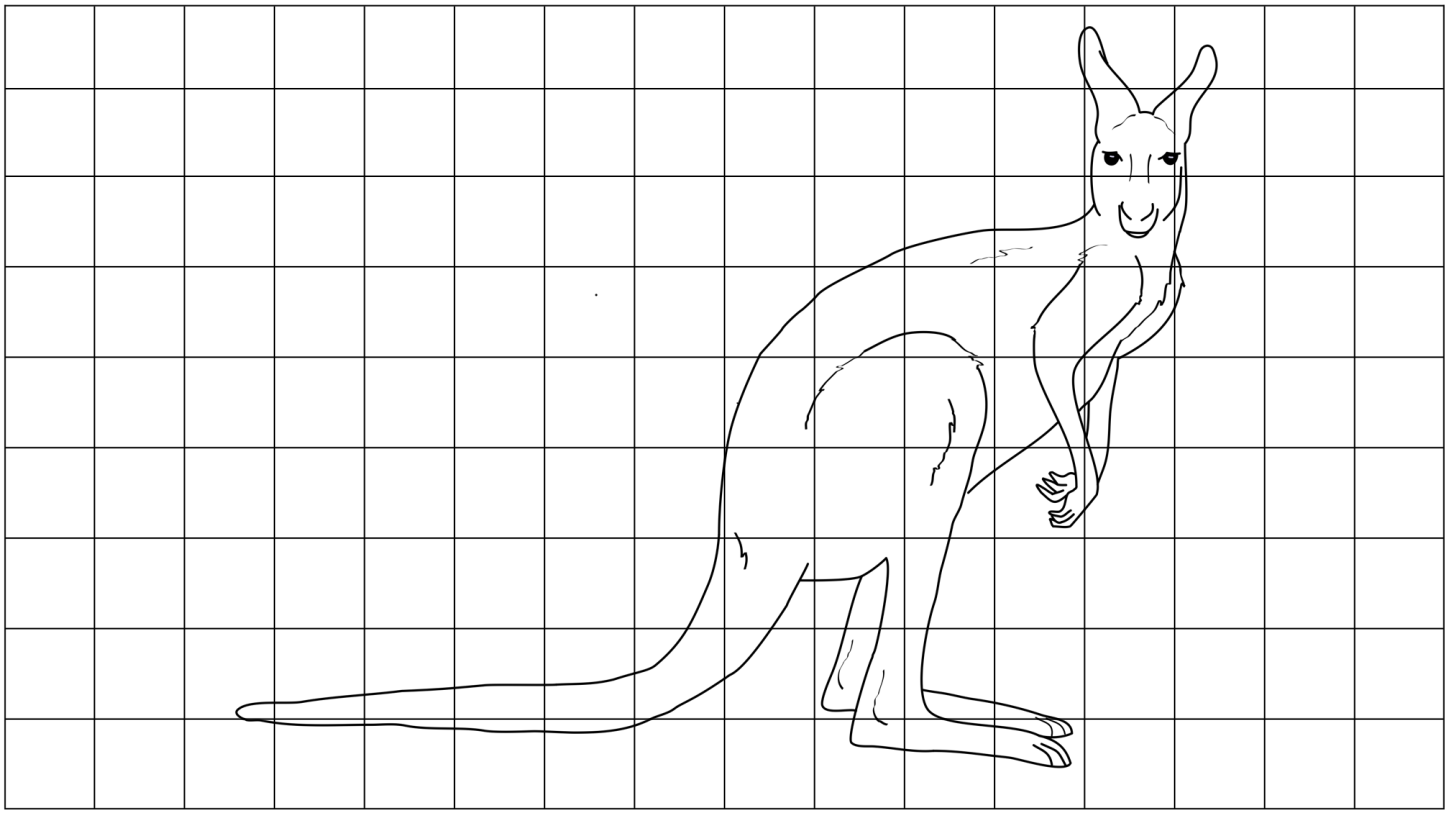
Kangaroos often rest during the day and look for food in the evening or early morning. They eat grass and small plants. They generally live alone or in small family groups except for times they gather when feeding.

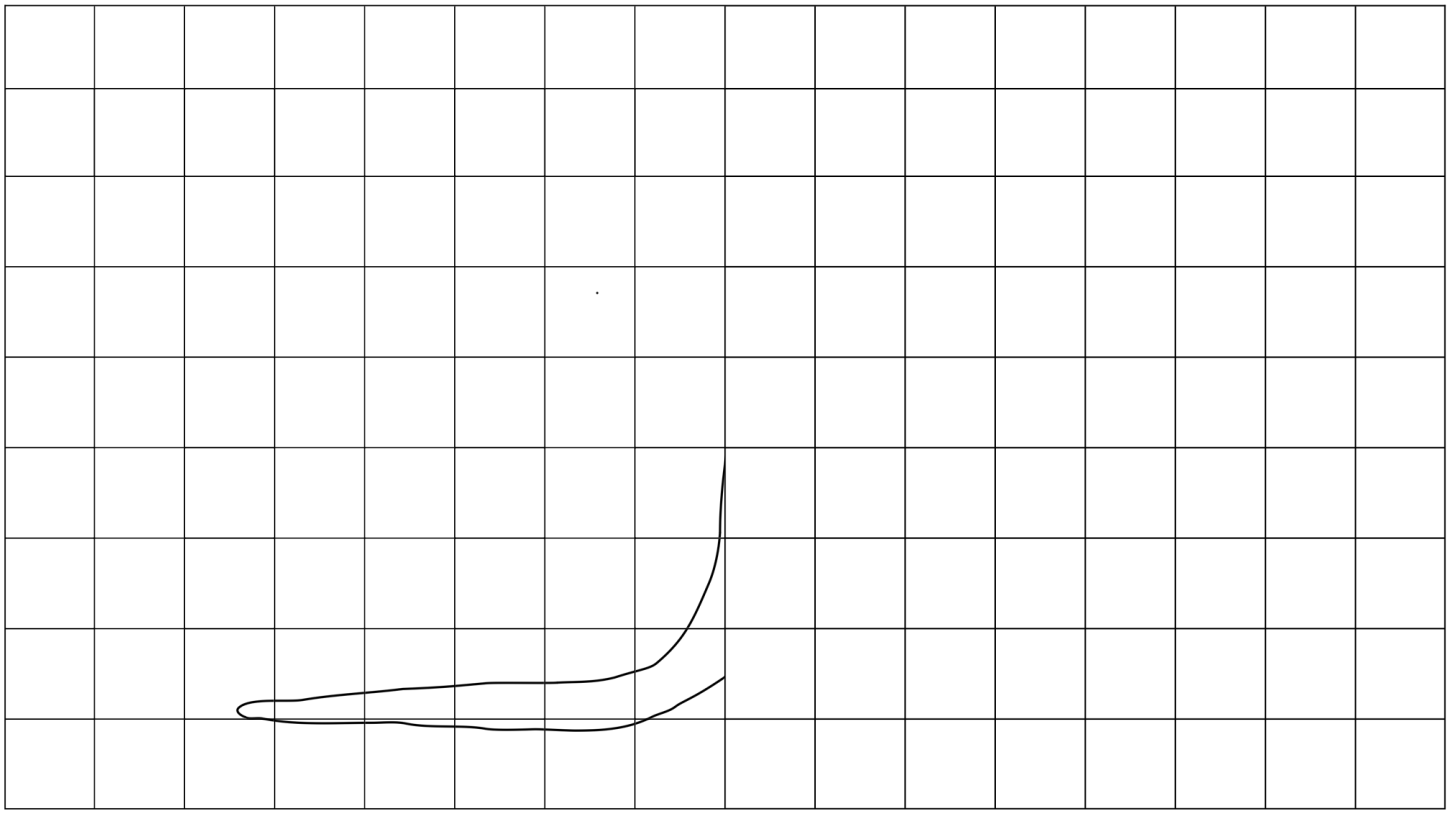
Baby kangaroos are called joeys. They are only about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long and weigh less than a gram (0.04 ounce) when they are born. They are not fully developed and live in their mother's pouch for about 6 to 9 months.

The main enemies of kangaroos are people and dingoes.

Follow these instructions to draw a kangaroo on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Koala

Koalas are marsupials native to Australia. They are found mainly along the coast of eastern Australia. They are sometimes called a koala bear, as they resemble a teddy bear, but they are not related to bears and they do not have a tail. Koalas are about 24-33 inches (60-85 cm) long and weigh about 15-30 pounds (7-14 kg). They have soft gray or brown fur on their backs that is very thick. The fur on their undersides is a sort of cream color. They use their strong, clawed feet for climbing.

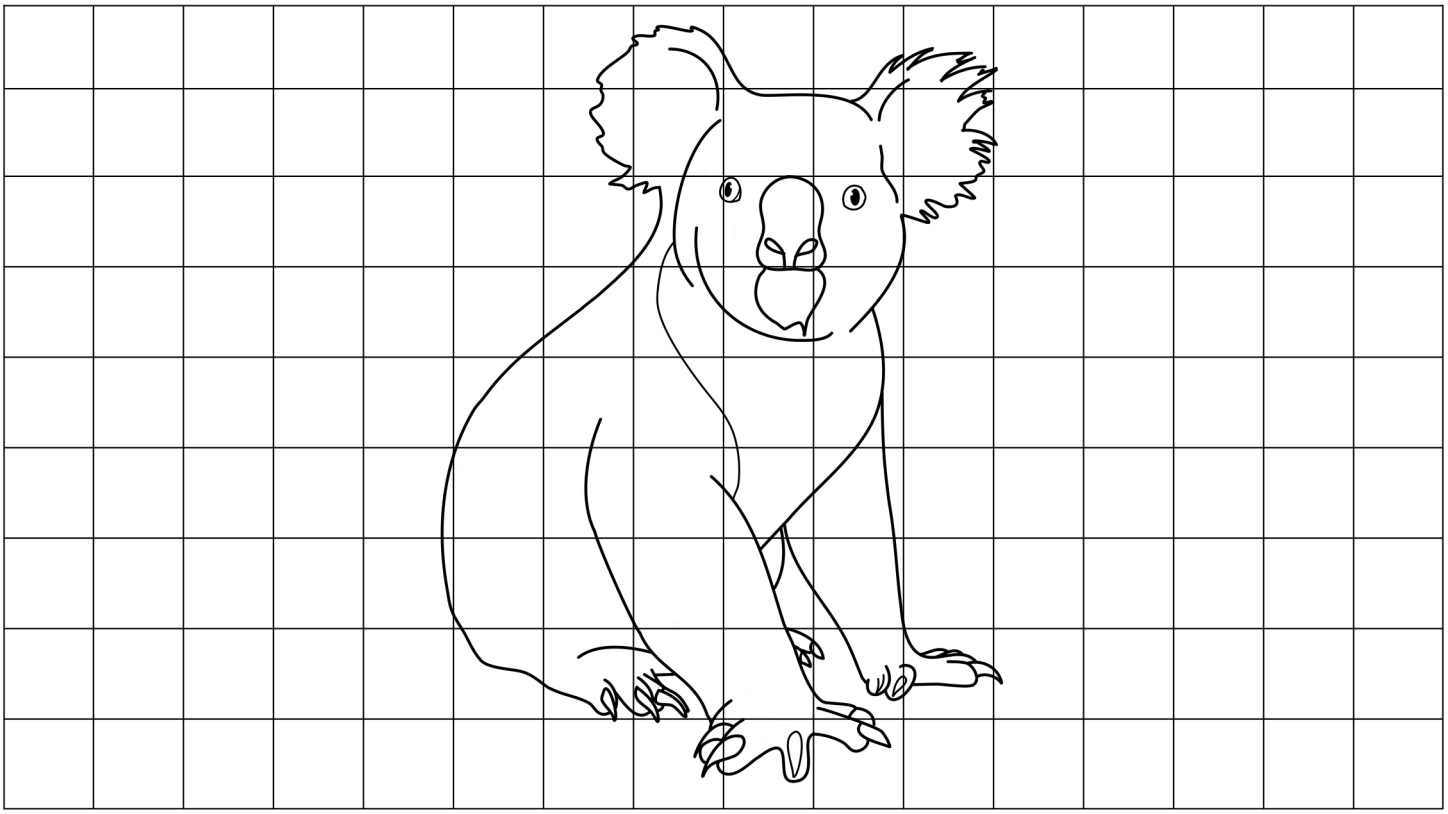
Koalas spend almost all their time in trees. They sleep during the day and are active mostly at night. They only come out of the trees to move to another tree. Their main food is leaves and shoots of certain eucalyptus trees. Since the eucalyptus leaves and shoots do not have many nutrients, the koala does not have much extra energy. They even get their liquid from the eucalyptus leaves. They almost never drink water.

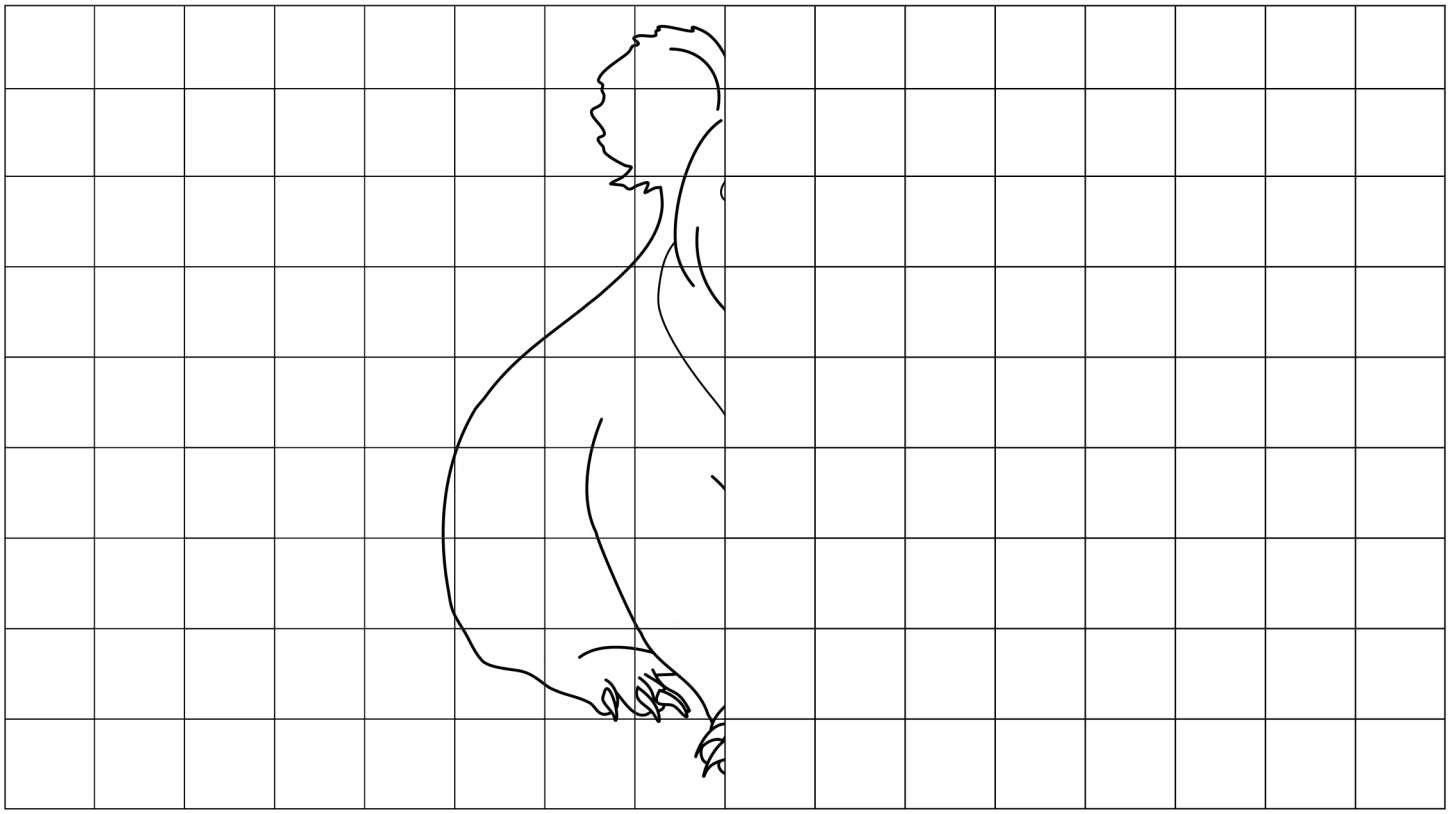
Baby koalas are called joeys. They are not fully developed when they are born and, for about 7 months, live in a pouch on the mother. When they are finally ready to live outside the pouch, they spend about 6 months riding on their mothers' backs.

Koalas are dying due to disease and because people have cut down many of the eucalyptus trees. Natural disasters, such as bushfires, have also killed many of the koalas.

Follow these instructions to draw a koala on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Kookaburra

Kookaburras are birds native to Australia. They are members of the kingfisher family, and there are different kinds of kookaburras that live in various parts of Australia.

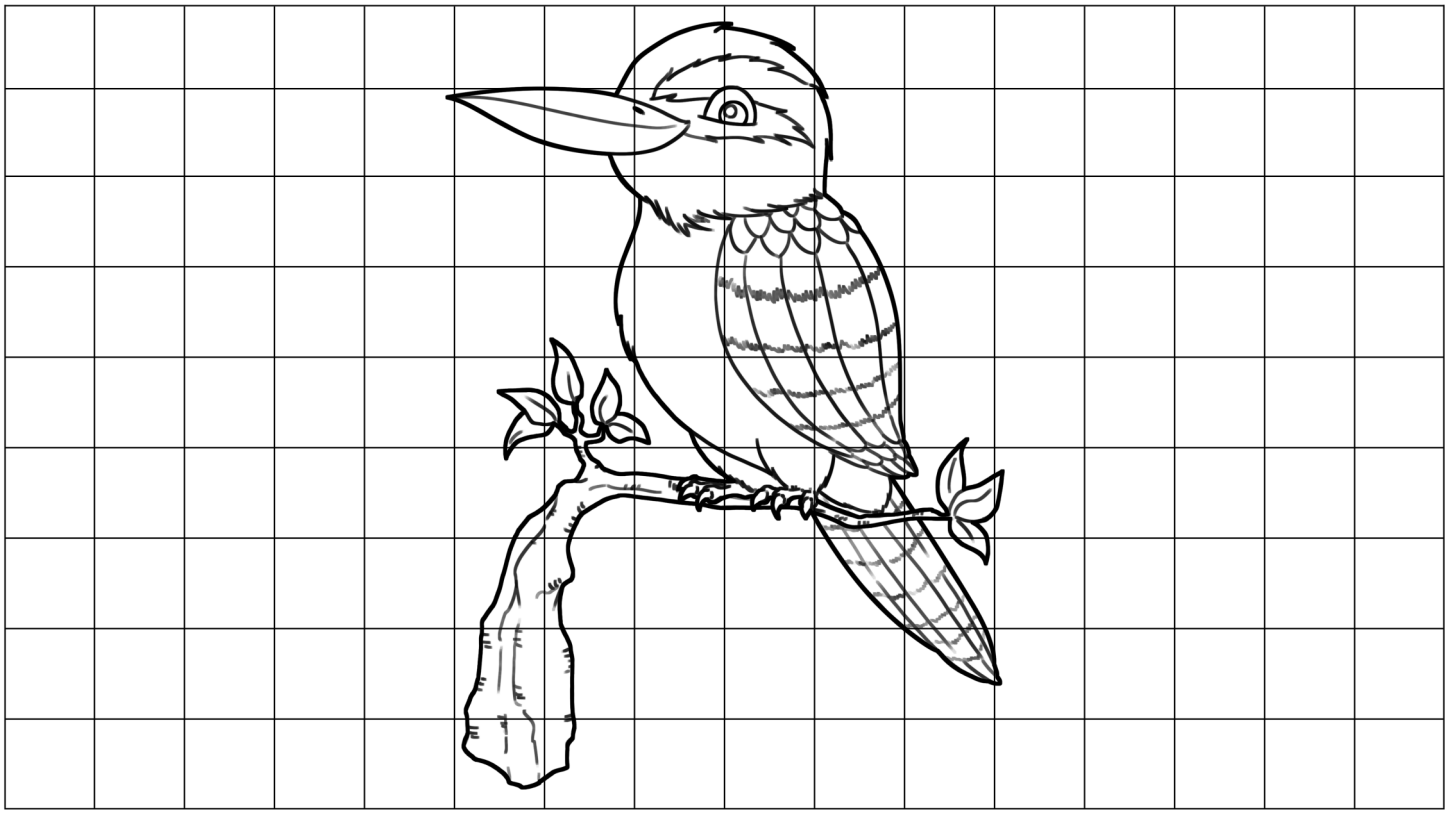
The laughing kookaburra gets its name from its distinctive call, which really isn't a laugh but a warning cackle to keep other birds from invading its territory. They are off-white, dark brown, and blue with brown streaks on their faces. They are about 16-18 inches (40-45 cm) long. They live in eastern Australia, and some have been introduced to the southwestern corner of Australia. They eat insects, fish, frogs, snakes, worms, lizards, crayfish, and small birds or mammals.

The blue-winged kookaburras are a little smaller than the laughing kookaburras and are about 15-16.5 inches (38-42 cm) long. They are off-white, brown, and blue and have pale feathers on their faces. They have large squarish heads and long bills. Most blue-winged kookaburras in Australia live along the northern shore. Their diet is very similar to the laughing kookaburra.

Both kinds of kookaburras build nests in hollows in trees or in burrows made in termite mounds. Both parents raise the young, and often the young from a previous year or two also help.

Follow these instructions to draw a kookaburra on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Platypus

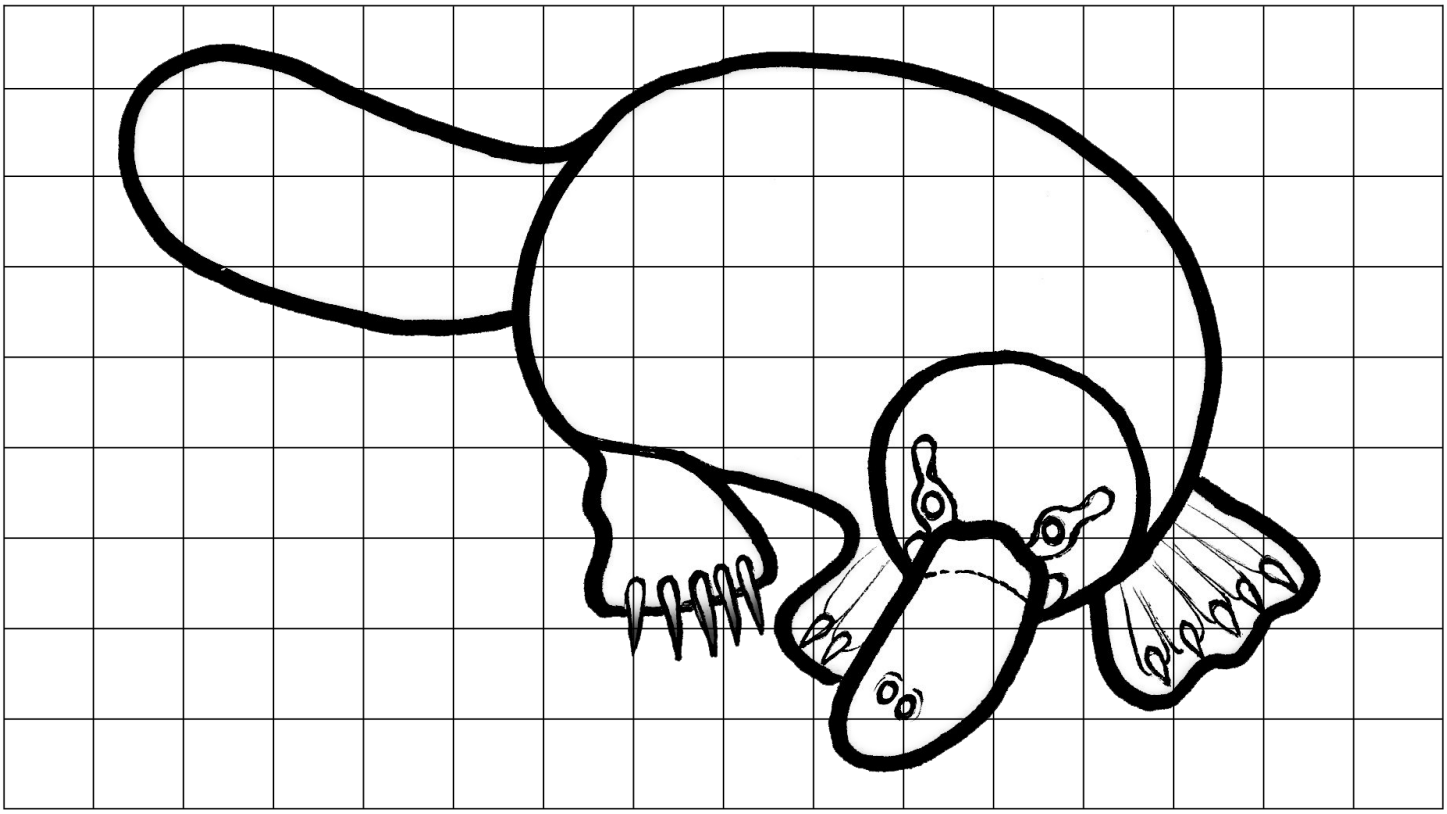
Platypuses are native mammals of Australia that are also monotremes, just like the echidna. Like the echidna, they lay eggs like birds and reptiles, but they have hair and feed their young with milk from the mother like mammals.

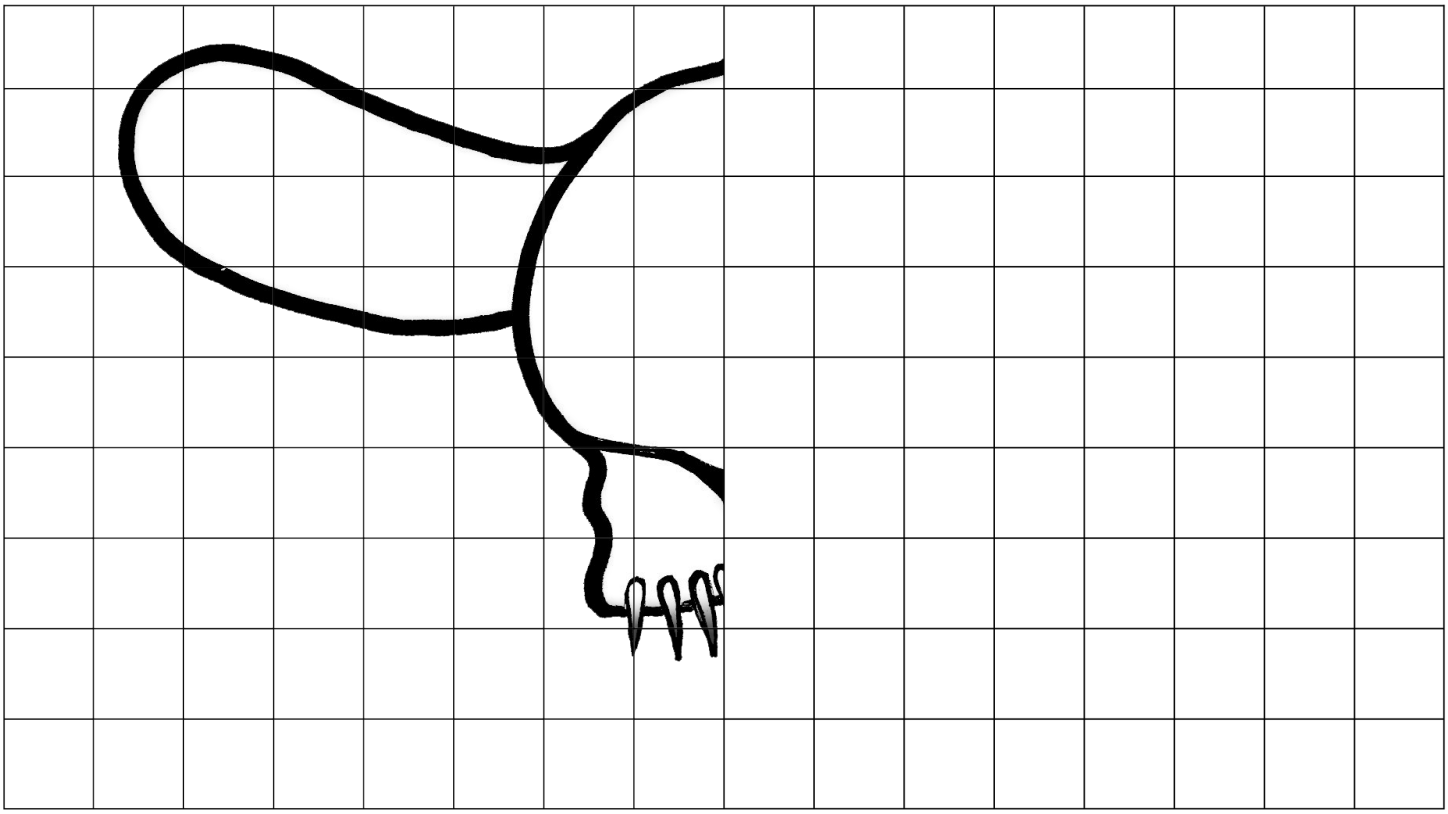
Platypuses live in eastern Australia. They have thick brown fur, webbed feet, and a duck-like bill. They also have wide, flat tails that help them swim. They live in burrows along the banks of freshwater rivers and streams. They make short dives for animals such as worms, shellfish, and other food from the bottom. You don't normally think of an animal hunting with its eyes closed, but that is exactly what platypuses do. They keep their eyes shut when diving, using sensors on their bills to detect their prey. Adult platypuses do not have teeth and use pads at the back of their jaws to crush prey. Adult platypuses are about 15-22 inches (38-56 cm) long and weigh about 5 pounds (2.3 kg). Some from northern areas of Australia are a little smaller.

Baby platypuses hatch from eggs measuring about 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) in diameter that the mother lays, usually 1-3 at a time. The eggs hatch after only around 10 days. Then the babies live on the mother's milk for about 4 months.

Follow these instructions to draw a platypus on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Quokka

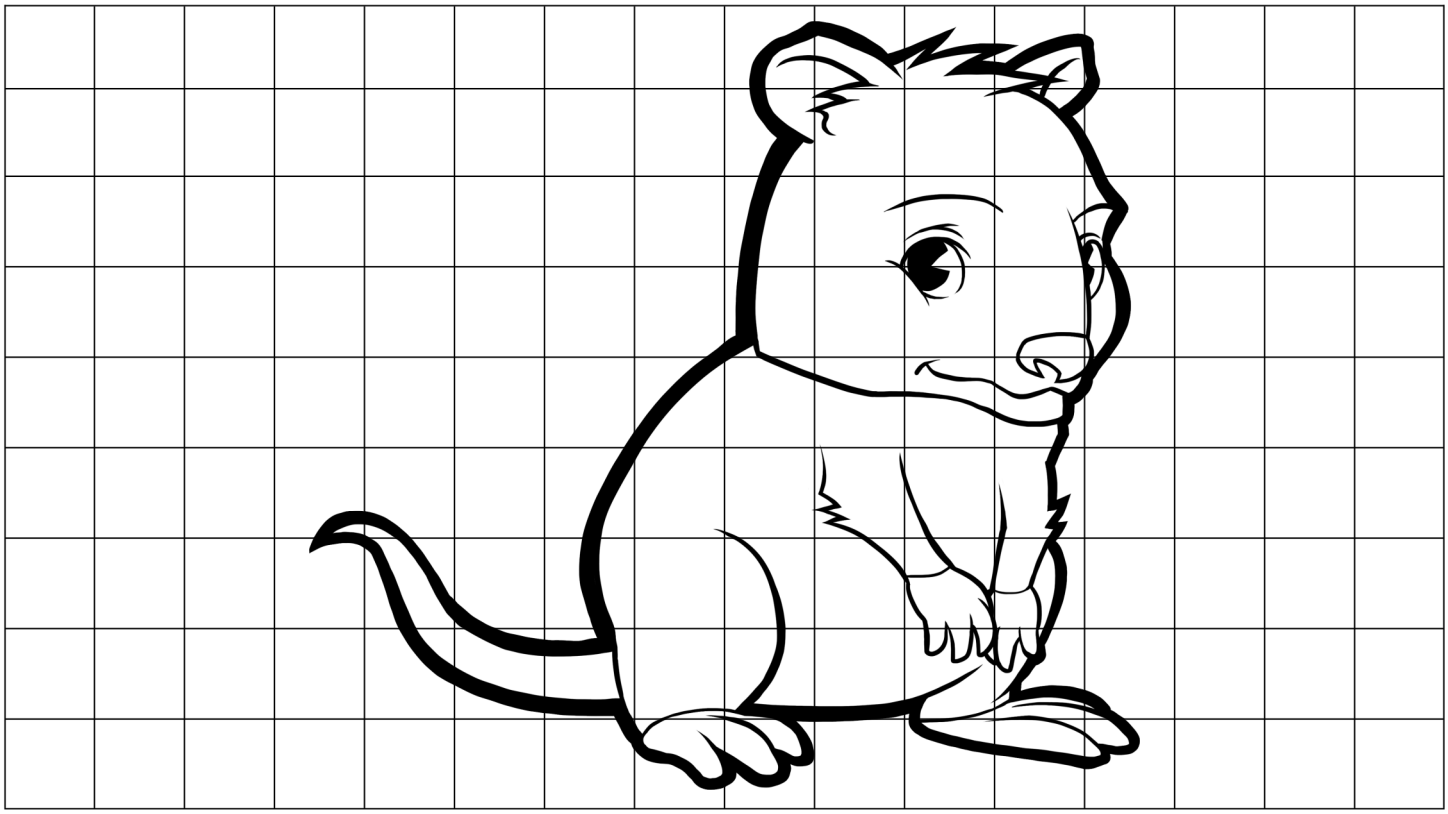
Quokkas are small marsupials native to Australia. They are one of the smallest kinds of wallabies, which are related to kangaroos. They look something like a very small kangaroo with a short tail or a bit like a giant rat about the size of a house cat. As a matter of fact, when Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh spotted one on an island off of Western Australia, he named the island Rottenest (or rat nest). It's now called Rottnest Island. They still live in Western Australia, primarily on Rottnest Island and Bald Island, though some live on the mainland in a protected area.

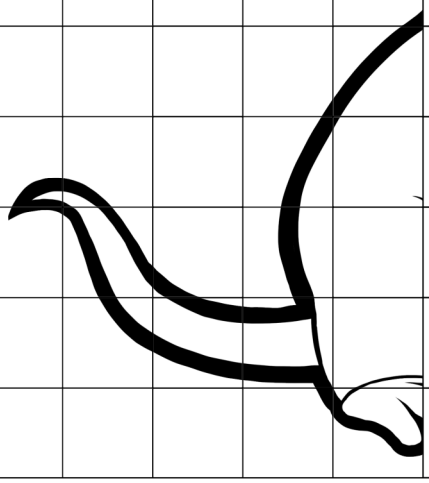
Quokkas are about 16-21 inches (40-54 cm) long and weigh about 5.5-11 pounds (2.5-5 kg). They generally have brown fur that changes to a buff color on the underside. They live in areas ranging from those that have light rainfall and a small amount of vegetation to garden areas and are known for their ability to climb trees. Their favorite foods include certain flowering plants. They eat mostly at night. They take shelter in thick vegetation during the day and stay busy creating paths they can use to escape a predator.

Quokkas suffer from not having enough areas available for them to live because of the land being cleared for other uses. Their main enemies include foxes, cats, dogs, and dingoes. Quokkas have no fear of people, but it is illegal for people to handle the animals.

Follow these instructions to draw a quokka on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





Wombat

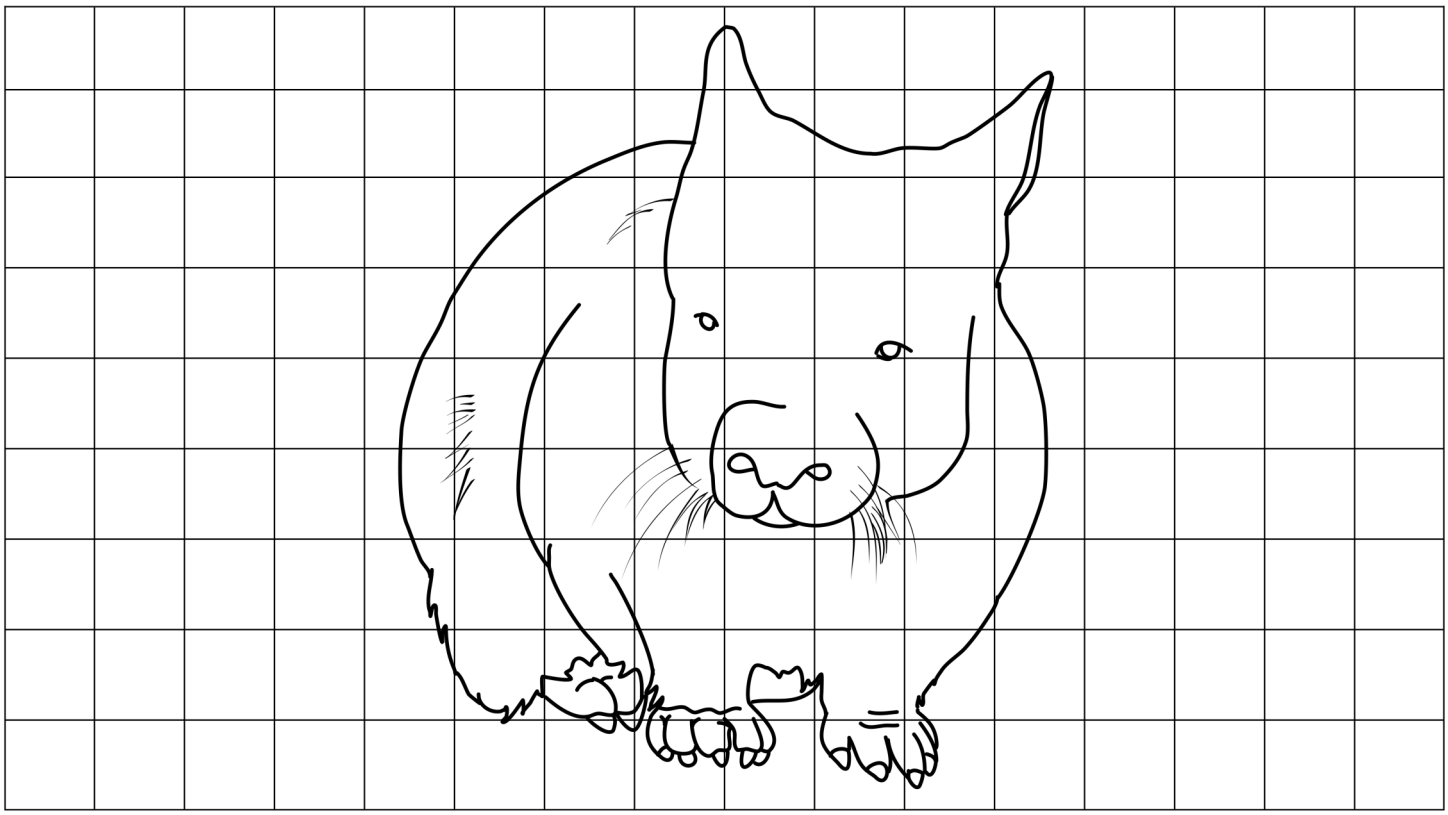
Wombats are another native marsupial of Australia. They have small eyes, short ears, and no tails. They average about 31-47 inches (80-120 cm) long and weigh between 44-77 pounds (20-35 kg). They come out mainly at night. Some types have thick brown fur and eat grass, roots, and small bushes while other types are gray and white and eat mainly grass. Wombats have teeth that grow continuously. They are strong and can run fast for short distances, even up to 25 mph (40 km/h).

Baby wombats are not fully developed when they are born. They live in their mother's pouch, which opens to the rear, for at least 6 months. An advantage of their pouches opening to the rear is that when wombats dig their burrows, they do not risk throwing dirt into the pouch where their young are maturing. Of all the animals in the world that dig burrows, wombats are some of the largest.

Dingoes and Tasmanian devils are the main enemies of the wombat. Wombats are protected animals in parts of Australia, while in other parts, they are considered pests.

Follow these instructions to draw a wombat on the next page like the one shown below:

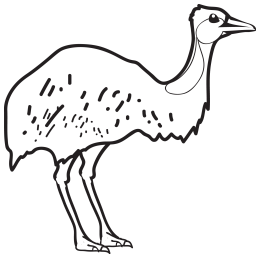
- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





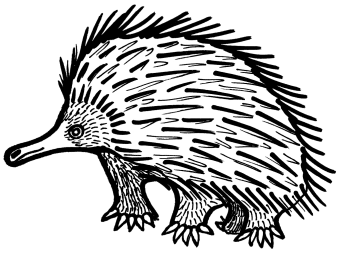
Identify the Image

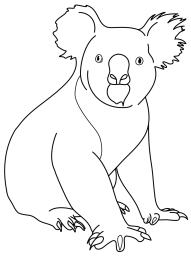
1. Which picture shows a quokka? Circle it.



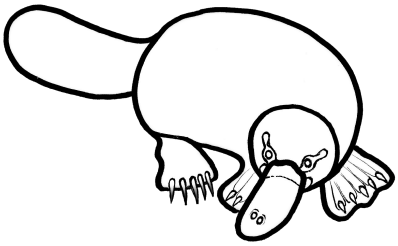


2. Which picture shows a kangaroo? Circle it.



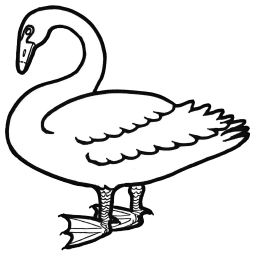


3. Which picture shows a cassowary? Circle it.

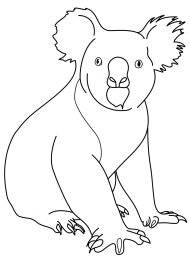
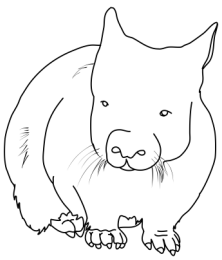




4. Which picture shows a black swan? Circle it.



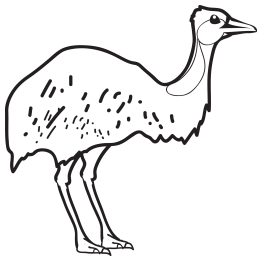


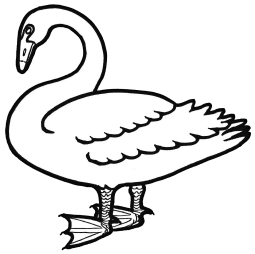
5. Which picture shows a koala? Circle it.

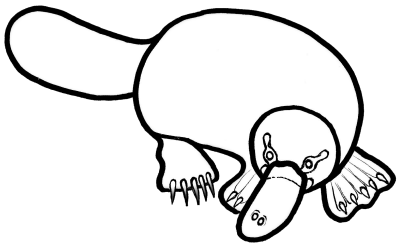

Identify the Image (continued)

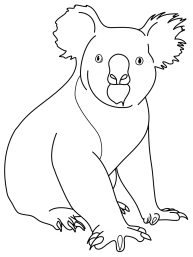
6. Which picture shows an emu? Circle it.





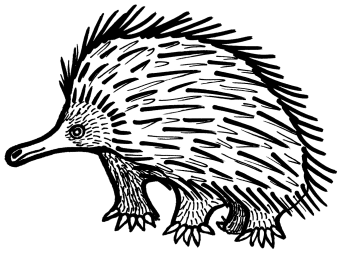
7. Which picture shows a kookaburra? Circle it.



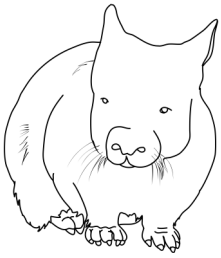


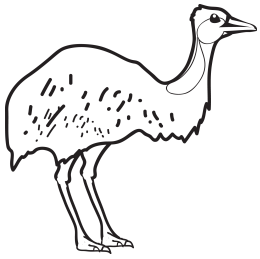
8. Which picture shows an echidna? Circle it.



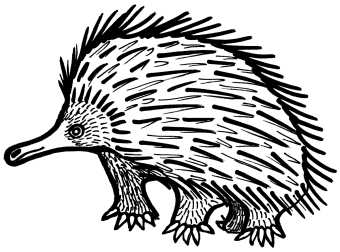
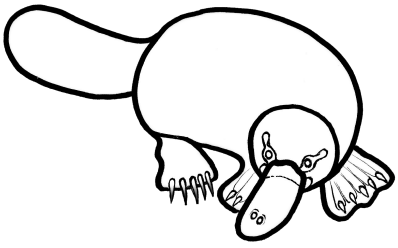


9. Which picture shows a wombat ? Circle it.

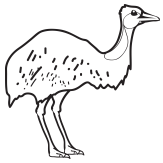
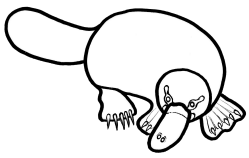




10. Which picture shows a platypus? Circle it.


Answer Key

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 

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