

First Facts

by Rebecca Johnson

Steve Parish **KIDS**

Use these activity sheets to teach your science content in combination with literacy. There are two photocopiable worksheets to support each of the eight books in the series.

Each book guides students to independently develop early scientific research patterns by:

- comparing and contrasting
- using glossaries and indexes
- deciphering facts and information from tables and graphs
- making inferences about what they have read.

The books gradually release information in order to build a solid understanding of how the six main groups of animals are classified. The activity sheets reinforce this understanding through presenting and repeating the facts in different formats.

Linked to the Australian Curriculum science outcomes listed below, these books and their accompanying worksheets are valuable resources across primary schools, and cater to students with different needs and abilities.



\$7.95 RRP

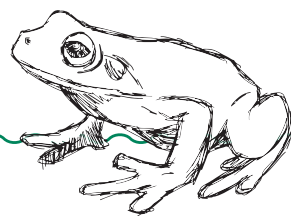


Foundation	Living things have basic needs, including food and water.	ACSSU002
Year 1	Living things have a variety of external features.	ACSSU017
Year 2	Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves.	ACSSU030
	People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things.	ACSHE035
Year 3	Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.	ACSSU044
	Science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships.	ACSHE050
Year 4	Living things have life cycles.	ACSSU072
	Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.	ACSSU073
Year 5	Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.	ACSSU043

There are 8 books in the **First Facts** series. Their titles, reading levels and ISBNs are listed below:

Title	Isbn	Reading Level
Mammals	9781925425833	15–16
Birds	9781925425840	13–14
Reptiles	9781925425857	13–14
Fish	9781925425864	15–16
Amphibians	9781925425871	17
Insects	9781925425888	18
Kangaroos	9781925425895	15–16
Koalas	9781925425901	17


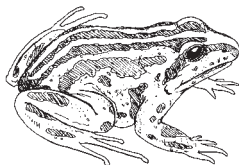



First Facts Amphibians



1 Draw and label the four groups of amphibians.

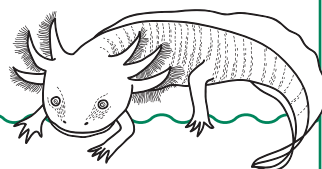
2 Look at the picture of the extinct gastric-brooding frog on page 12 of *Amphibians*. Why do you think it became extinct?

3 **Life cycle of a frog.** Use 4 different colours to match the stage to the word and the picture. The first one is done for you.

1	3	5	2	4
tadpoles	froglet	eggs	adult	back legs emerge
				

NAME

First Facts Amphibians



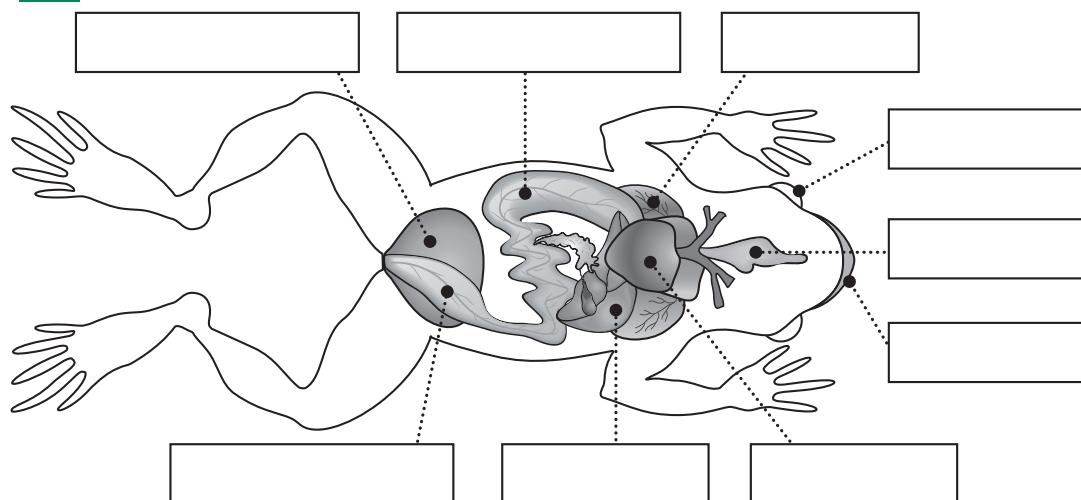
4 Colour the characteristics of amphibians.

cold blooded	look after their young	vertebrates
have scales	have hair or fur	lay eggs
spend part of their lives in water and on land	have moist skin	no legs

5 Use the *Amphibians* book to help you answer the questions.

- How long can caecilians grow?
- What do adult axolotls have that other adult amphibians do not?
- Is a toad's tongue sticky?
- Do adult frogs have tails?
- How many species of amphibians are there in the world?
- Do all frogs protect their eggs?
- What is the change of shape amphibians go through called?
- What can amphibians do through their skin?

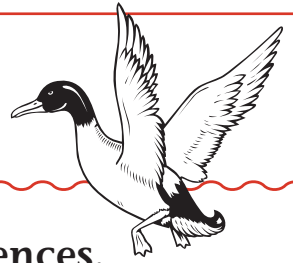
6 Label the parts of a frog.



bladder
stomach
lung
eye
brain
tongue
heart
liver
intestine

NAME

First Facts Birds



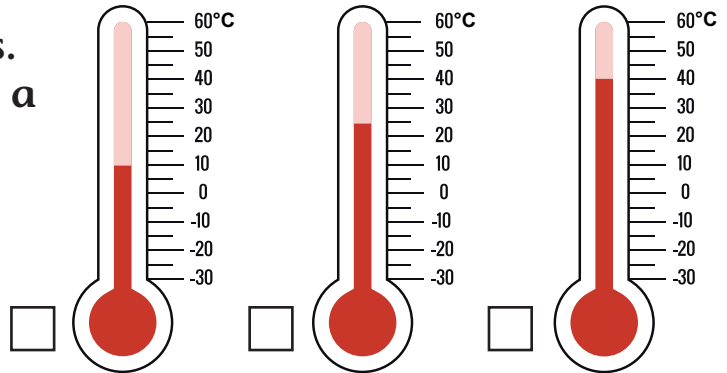
1 Use the *Birds* book to help you complete the sentences.

- a.** Birds lay _____. **d.** Birds use their _____ to fly.
b. Not all birds can _____. **e.** Birds' bodies are covered in _____.
c. Birds are _____ blooded. **f.** Birds have _____ bones.

2 Find a picture of a bird in the *Birds* book. Complete the statement.

Birds have two _____, _____ and _____.

3 Look at the thermometers.
Tick the one which shows a
bird's body temperature?



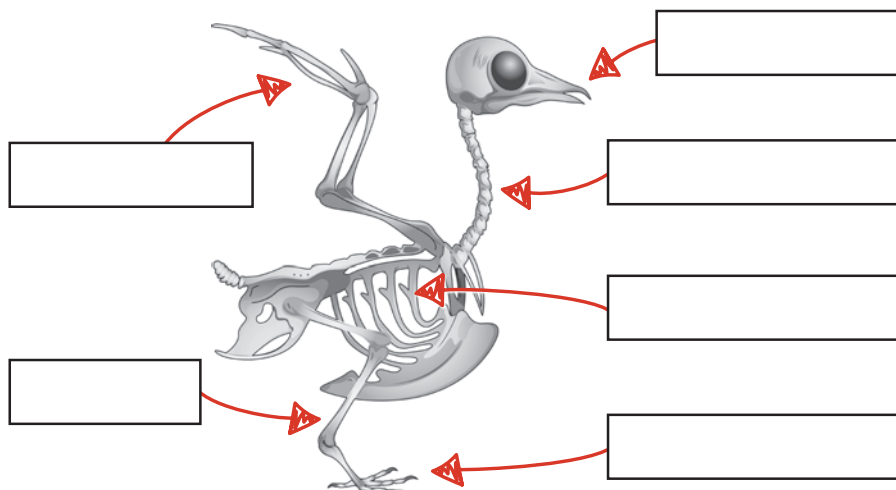
4 Find the 10 eggs hidden in the picture. Some birds lay their eggs in nests, and some lay them on the ground. Colour them.



NAME _____

First Facts Birds

5 Label the diagram of a bird's skeleton.



feet
wing
ribs
backbone
beak
legs

6 Circle **True** or **False**.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| a. Birds breathe through their mouth. | True | False |
| b. Birds are vertebrates. | True | False |
| c. Birds are warm blooded. | True | False |
| d. The shape of a bird's beak can tell you something about what it eats. | True | False |
| e. Not all birds have wings. | True | False |
| f. There are more bird species than mammals. | True | False |
| g. Water birds often have webbed feet. | True | False |

7 Help the mother bird feed her chicks.
Shade the boxes that have bird features.
Each box you shade must touch another.



Start here →

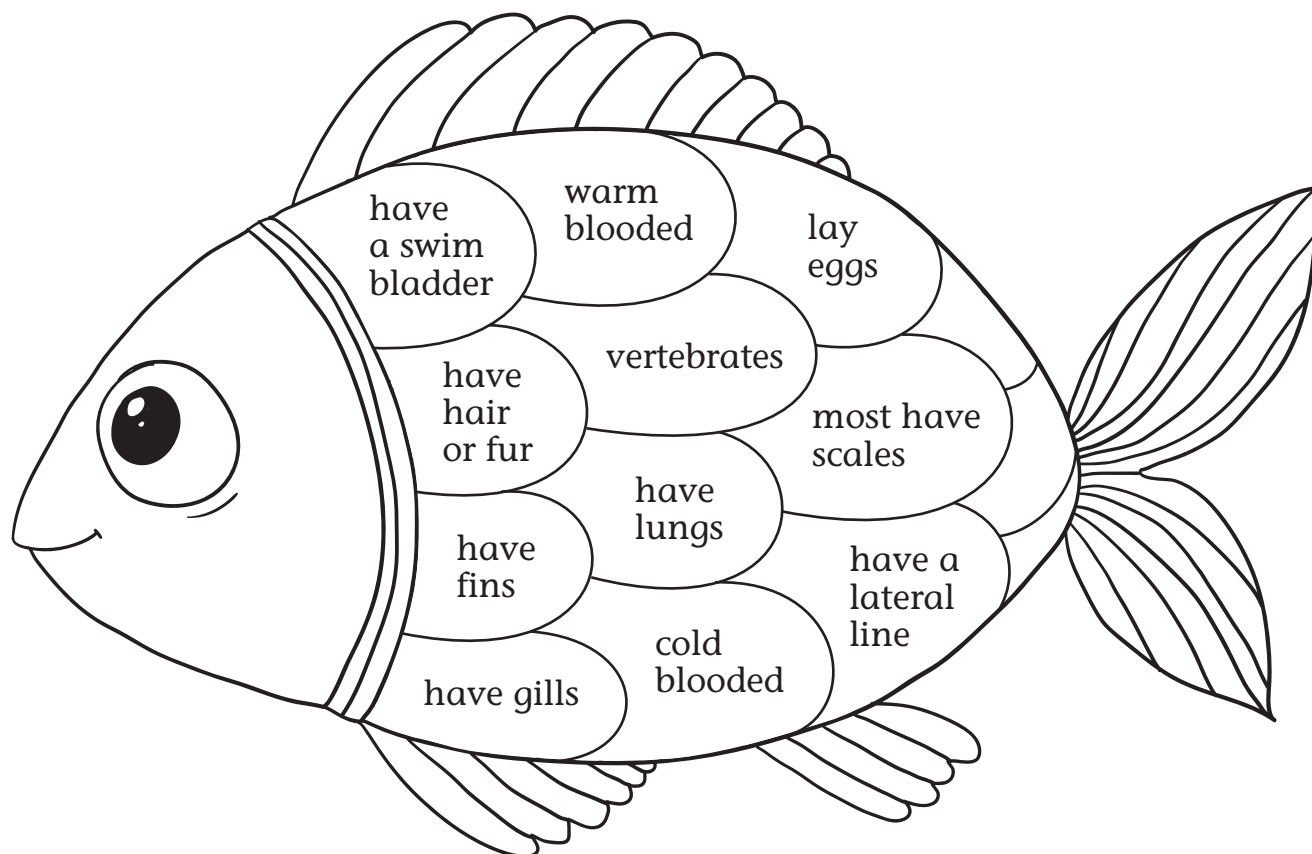
lay eggs	cold blooded	live babies	hair
4 legs	feathers	gills	6 legs
hollow bones	scales	swims	3 body parts
fur	vertebrate	wings	warm blooded



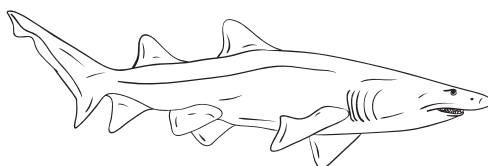
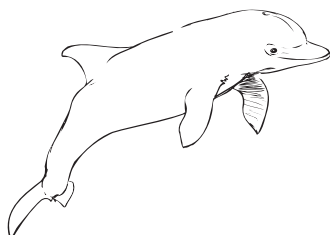
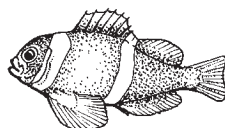
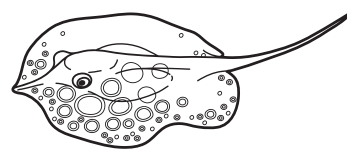
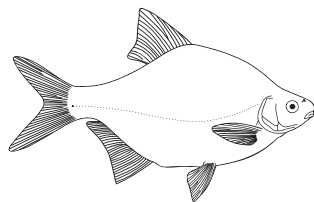
NAME

First Facts Fish

1 Colour the scales that have statements that are true about fish.



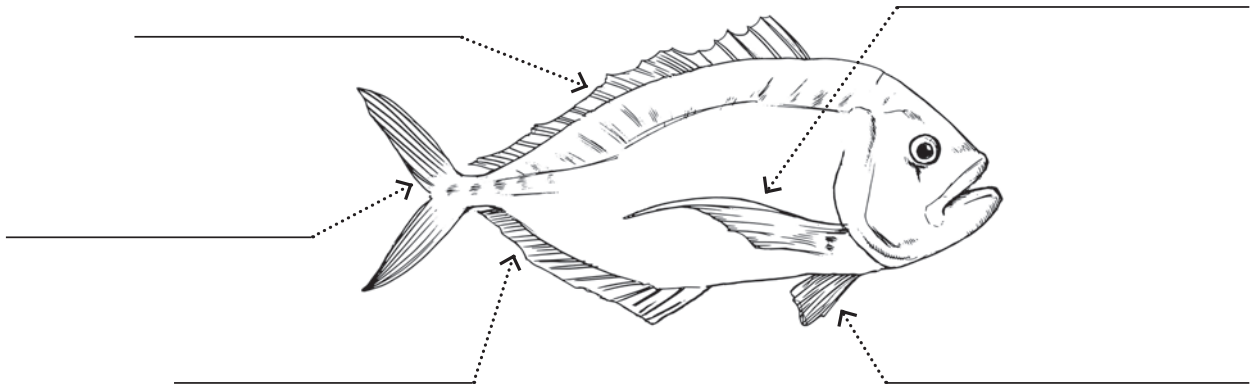
2 Circle the fish.



NAME

First Facts Fish

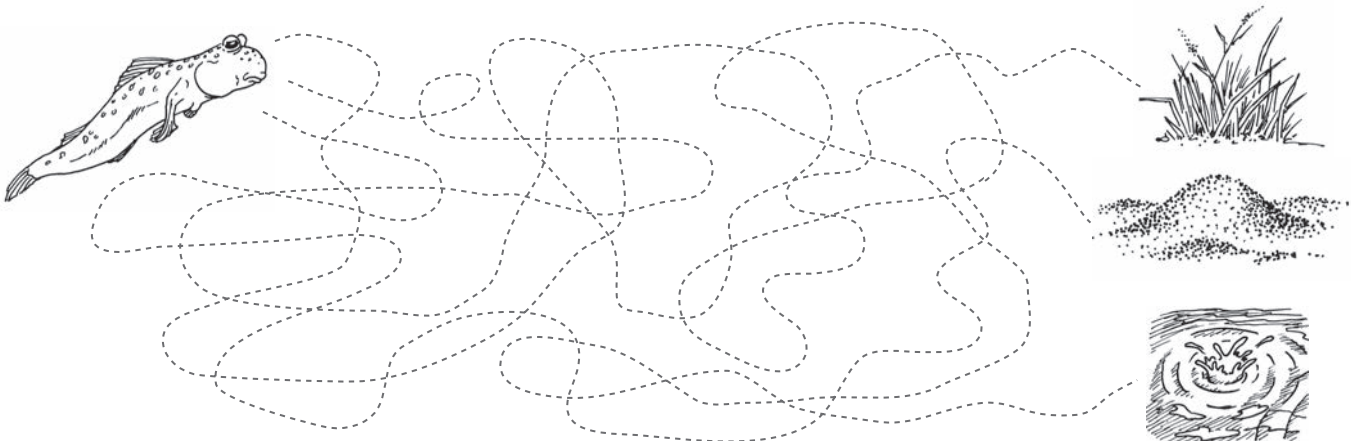
3 Label the fins of the fish.



4 Write **True** or **False**.

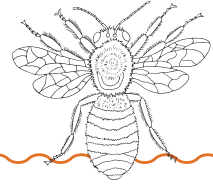
- a. All fish have a lateral line.
- b. Some species of fish can come onto land.
- c. All fish lay eggs.
- d. Baby fish are called fry.
- e. Male seahorses incubate the eggs.
- f. All fish look after their young.
- g. Fish are the largest group of animals in the world.
- h. Fish are cold blooded.

5 Help the mudskipper back to the water by tracing over the correct line.

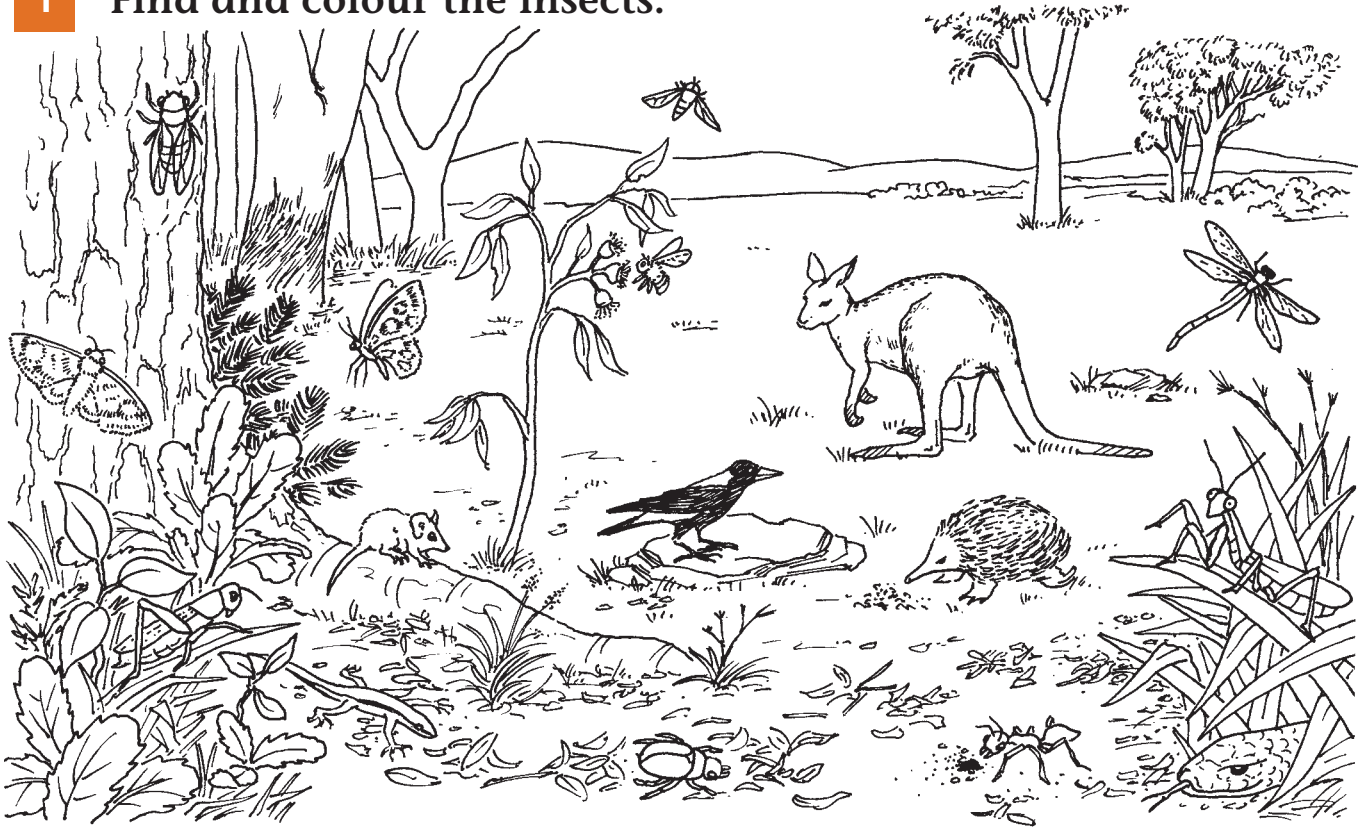


NAME

First Facts Insects



1 Find and colour the insects.



2 Use the *Insects* book to help you answer the questions.

- a. How many body parts does an insect have? _____
- b. What do you call animal with no backbone? _____
- c. What is the special name given to an insect's eye? _____
- d. Why do you think insects have antennae? _____
- e. What do almost all insects lay? _____
- f. What is the name for the openings insects breathe through? _____
- g. What are the three body parts of an insect called? _____
- h. What do we call the change of shape insects go through? _____
- i. How many species of insects are there in the world? _____
- j. What is the skeleton of an insect called? _____

NAME _____

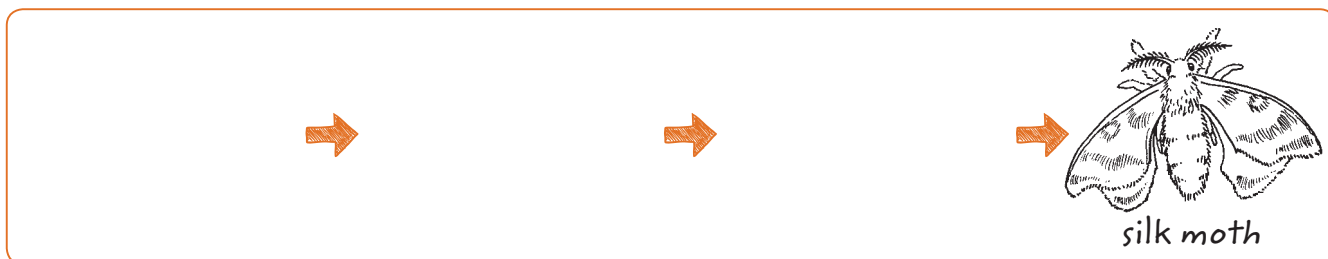
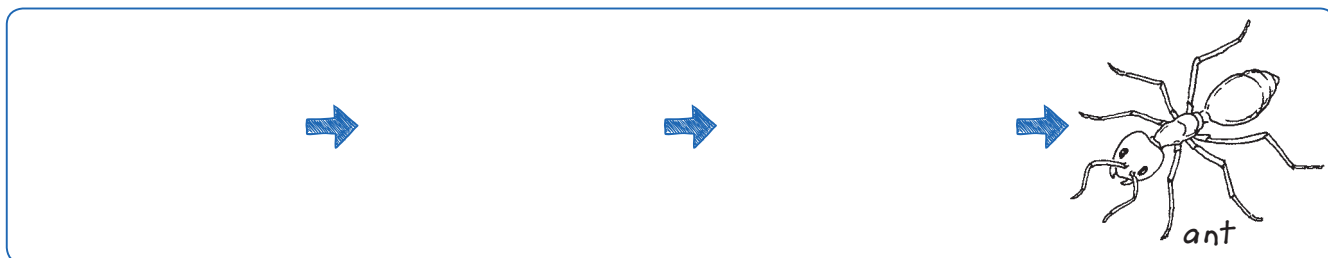
First Facts Insects

3 Do these insects go through complete or incomplete metamorphosis? Use the *Insects* book to help you.

Complete metamorphosis	Incomplete metamorphosis

cricket
cockroach
moth
fly
ant
bee
beetle
grasshopper
dragonfly
butterfly
stick insect

4 Cut and paste the pictures to complete the two life cycles.



NAME

First Facts Insects © 2017 Pascal Press



larva



pupa



silkworm



egg



cocoon



egg

First Facts Kangaroos

- 1** Use the information on page 15 in the Kangaroo book about male and female red kangaroos. Shade the facts about males in yellow and females in green. Colour the facts that are common to both in blue.

Called does	Have strong tails	Stay with the mob as adults
Have big ears	Called bucks	Are bigger and stronger
Have a pouch	Are more red in colour	Hop on back legs
Leave the mob when adults	Have a backbone	Are more grey in colour

- 2** How does a joey get into its mother's pouch?

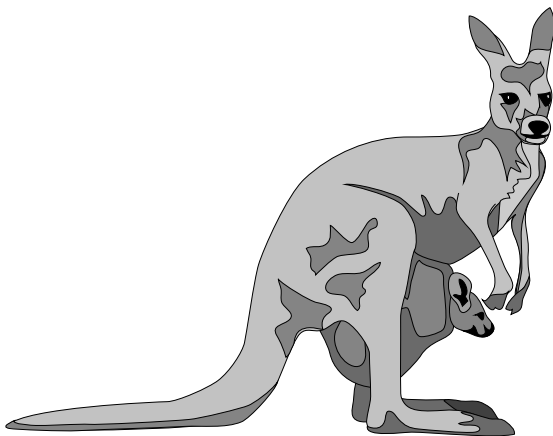
Why do you think kangaroos have a pouch?

How old is a joey when it leaves its mother's pouch?

What are the three types of kangaroos?

- 3** What are 6 other types of marsupials?

- 4** Can you label the parts of this kangaroo?



Strong tail
Large ears

Large feet
Joey

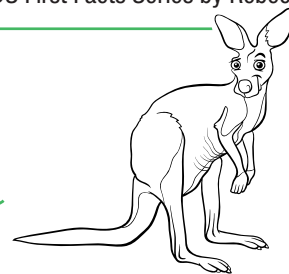
Pouch
Backbone

- 5** Use the glossary to match the word to its meaning

- a. herbivore** ☐ Animal that hunts and kills other animals to eat
- b. native** ☐ Parts of a female animal that give milk
- c. pouch** ☐ Found naturally in a particular area
- d. predator** ☐ A body that can make its own warmth
- e. teats** ☐ A pocket of skin on the belly of a marsupial
- f. warm blooded** ☐ Given food other than mother's milk
- g. weaned** ☐ Plant eater

NAME _____

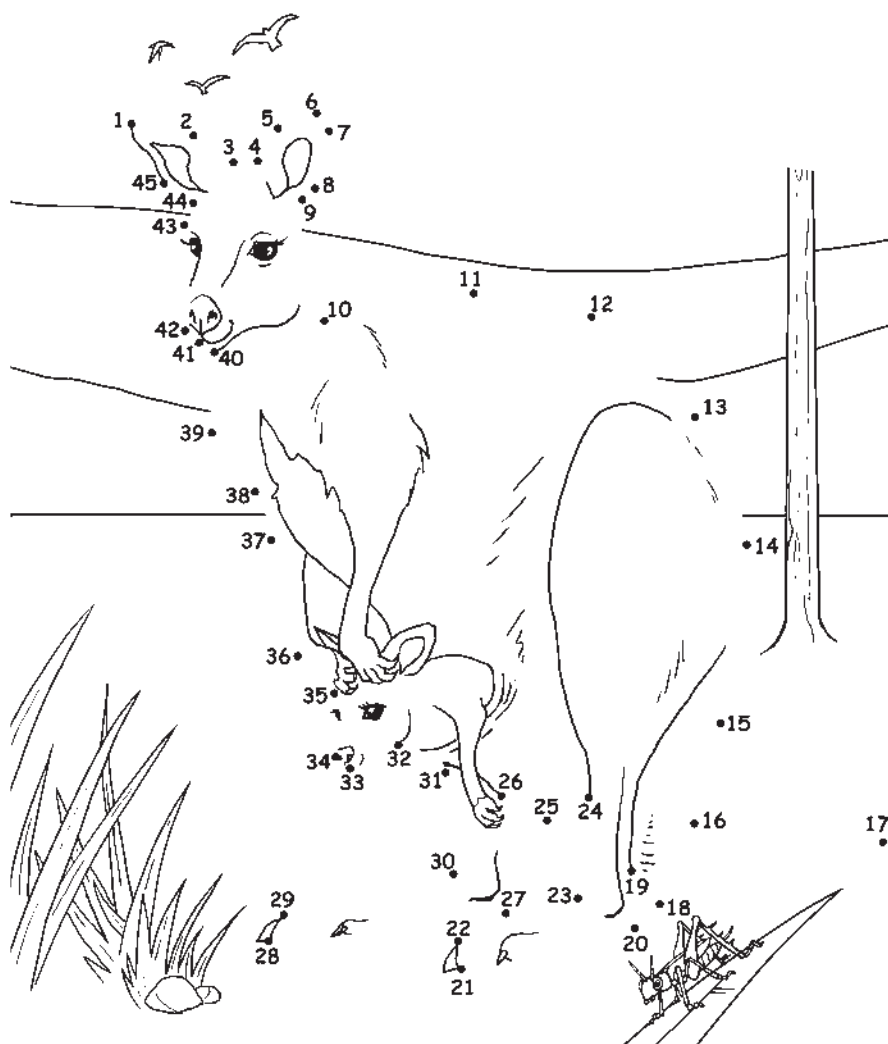
First Facts Kangaroos



7 Circle True or False.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| a. Wallabies and wallaroos are macropods, but not kangaroos | True | False |
| b. Kangaroos only eat grass | True | False |
| c. Kangaroos sleep more than people | True | False |
| d. Kangaroos are diurnal | True | False |
| e. Kangaroos live in groups called mobs | True | False |
| f. A kangaroo's tail is for whacking predators | True | False |
| g. A red kangaroo can jump over 3 meters high | True | False |
| h. Kangaroos can swim | True | False |
| i. Joeys stop drinking milk when they leave the pouch | True | False |

6 Can you complete the kangaroo dot to dot?



NAME _____

First Facts Koalas

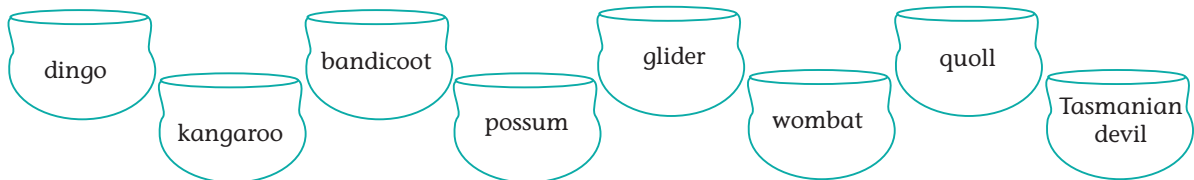


1 Circle the features of mammals.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| have scales | have gills | warm blooded |
| have 4 legs | have feathers | moist skin |
| feed young on milk | cold blooded | have lungs |
| vertebrates | have hair or fur | compound eyes |

2 What feature do marsupials have that other mammals don't?

3 Use the Koala book to help you shade the pouches that belong to marsupials:



4 Why does a koala's pouch face backwards? _____

5 Can you shade this number line showing how big a baby koala is when it is born?



6 Colour the object that would weigh about the same as a newborn koala red.



A jelly bean:
1 gram



A paperclip:
0.5 grams



A pet mouse:
400 grams



A chicken egg:
60 grams

7 Look at the pictures on page 9 in the Koalas book to fill in this table:

Ways that Northern and Southern koalas are the same	Ways that Northern and Southern koalas are different

NAME _____

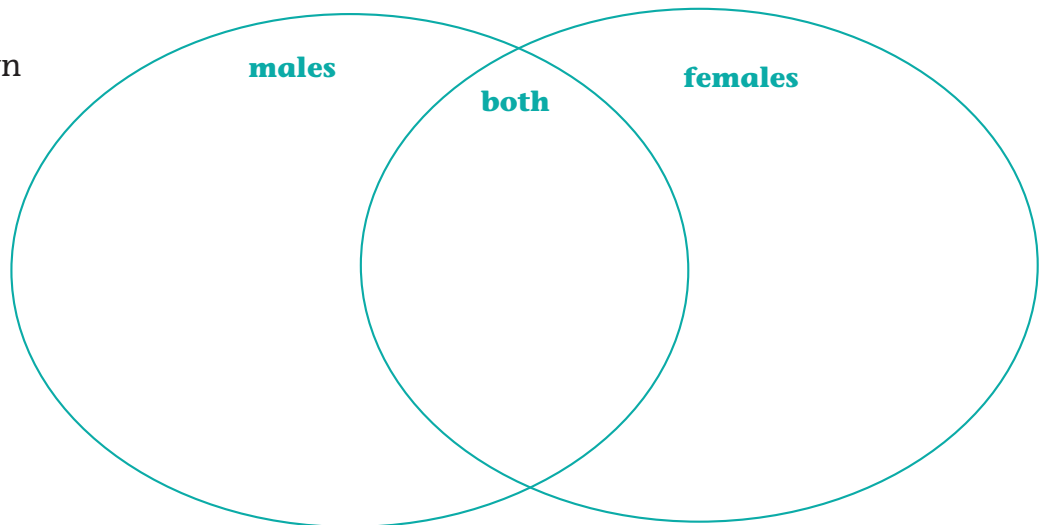
First Facts Koalas

8 Circle **True** or **False**.

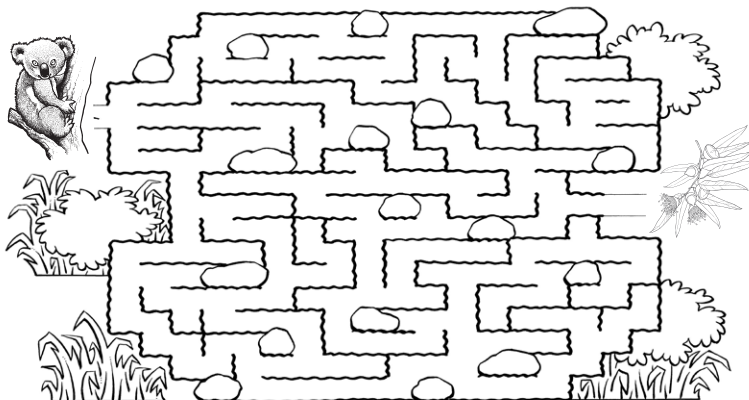
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a. Koalas eat dirt sometimes. | True | False |
| b. Koalas eat any kind of leaves | True | False |
| c. Koalas never eat the bark of the trees | True | False |
| d. Koalas don't have to drink a lot. | True | False |
| e. Koalas eat enough gum leaves a day to fill a shopping trolley. | True | False |
| f. Koalas are nocturnal, but they sleep for some of the night too. | True | False |
| g. Koalas like to live in large groups. | True | False |

9 Fill in this Venn diagram with the letter for each fact to show what is different and what is the same about male and female koalas.

- a. Has sticky brown patch on chest
- b. Waterproof fur
- c. Has a pouch
- d. Can leap 2 m
- e. Thick fur
- f. Fluffy ears
- g. Called a buck
- h. Called a doe

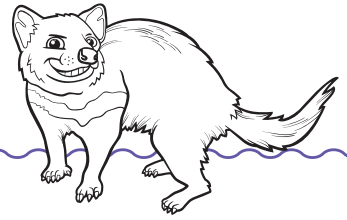


10 Can you complete the maze to help the koala get to a gum tree?



NAME

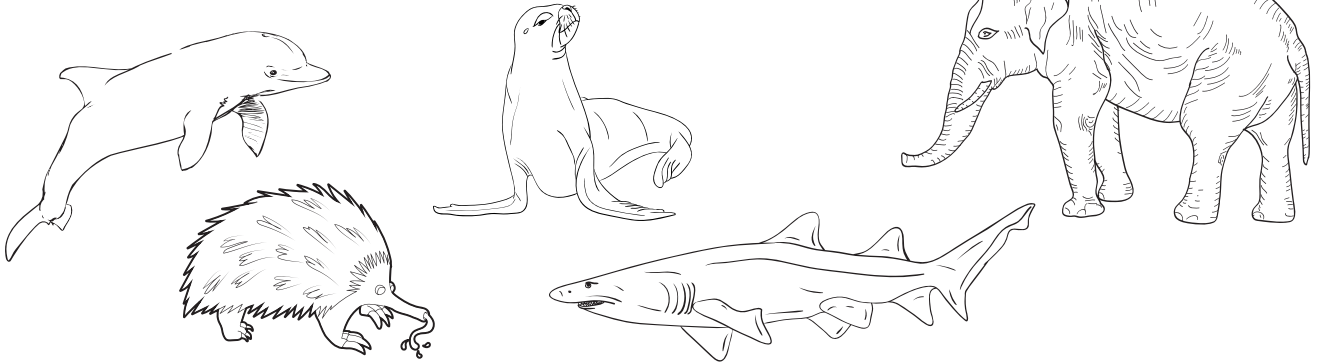
First Facts Mammals



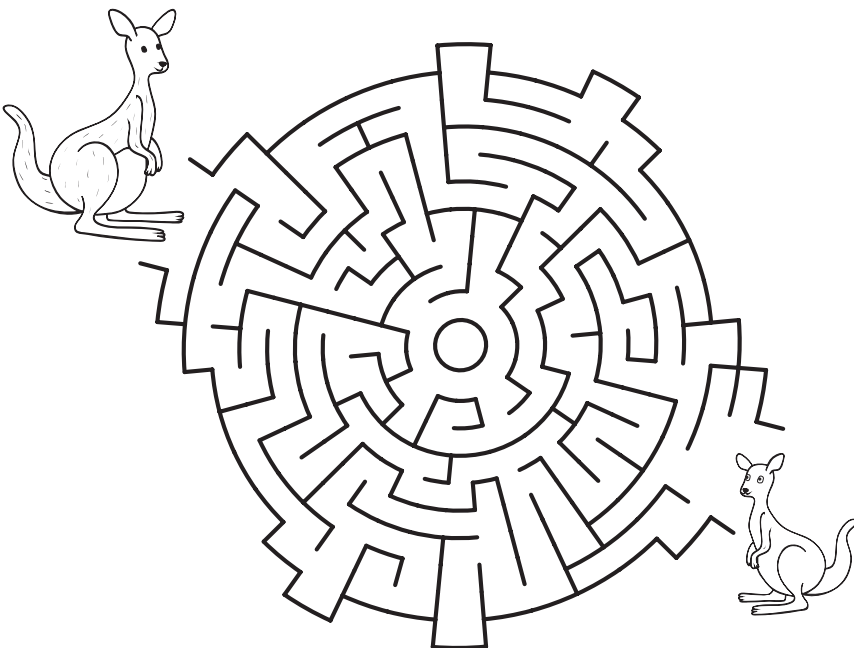
1 Circle the features of mammals.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| have scales | have gills | warm blooded |
| have 4 legs | have feathers | moist skin |
| feed young on milk | cold blooded | have lungs |
| vertebrates | have hair or fur | compound eyes |

2 Circle the animal that is **NOT** a mammal.

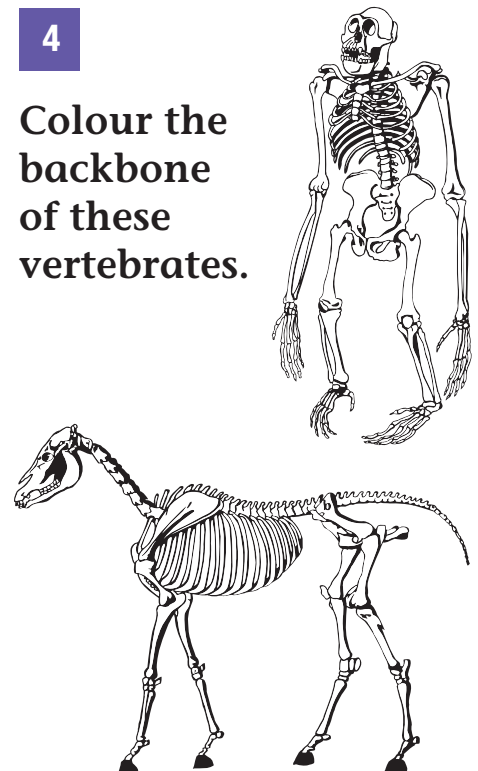


3 Help the kangaroo find her joey.



4

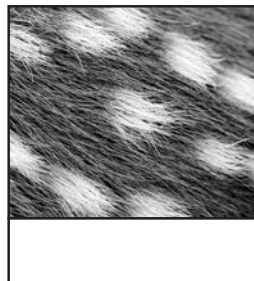
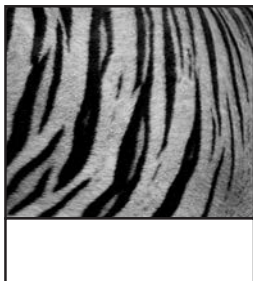
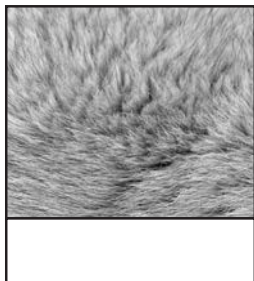
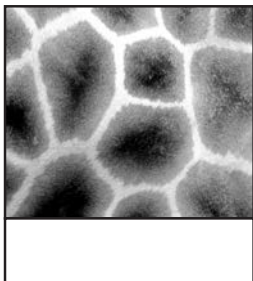
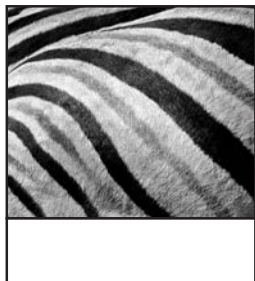
Colour the backbone of these vertebrates.



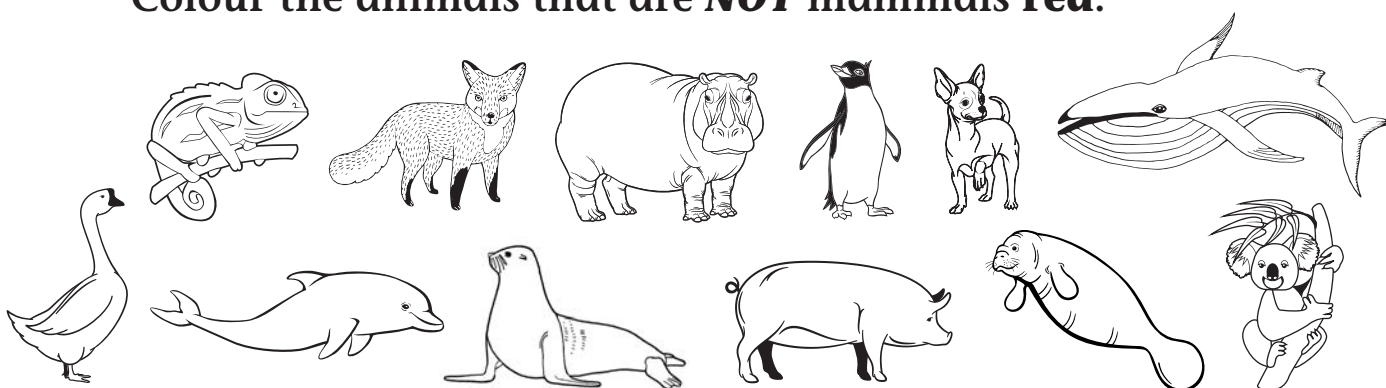
NAME _____

First Facts Mammals

5 Look at each fur pattern. Can you guess the mammal?



6 Colour the land mammals **green**.
Colour the marine mammals **blue**.
Colour the animals that are **NOT** mammals **red**.



7 Circle **True** or **False**.

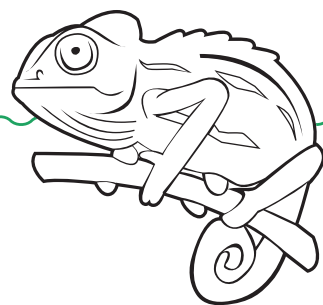
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a. There are many types of monotremes. | True | False |
| b. Baby marine mammals do not drink milk. | True | False |
| c. Mammals breathe air into their lungs. | True | False |
| d. A mammal's body temperature is usually below 36° C. | True | False |
| e. There are over 5000 species of mammals in the world. | True | False |
| f. There are three groups of mammals. | True | False |

8 Draw a line to complete the statements.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Marsupials | lay eggs. |
| b. Monotremes | babies grow inside the mother. |
| c. Placental mammals' | have a pouch. |

NAME

First Facts Reptiles



1 Circle True or False.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| a. All reptiles have scales. | True | False |
| b. Reptiles breathe through gills. | True | False |
| c. All reptiles lay eggs. | True | False |
| d. Reptiles are cold blooded. | True | False |
| e. Reptiles have lungs. | True | False |
| f. All reptiles have a backbone. | True | False |

2 Use the *Reptiles* book to help you decide if the reptiles below are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. Fill in the chart.

Carnivores	Herbivores	Omnivores

green turtle
bearded dragon
crocodile
blue-tongued lizard
snake
chameleon
aquatic turtle
iguana
giant tortoise

3 Read the news report. Circle the reptile the boy in the news report might have seen. Use page 20 to help you.

saltwater
crocodile

freshwater
crocodile

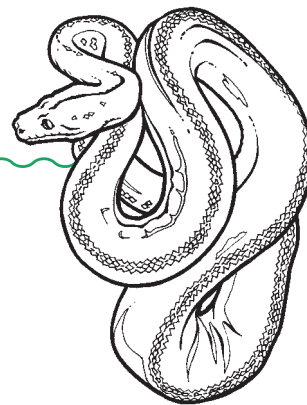
alligator

THE DAILY NEWS

A 10-year-old boy is in a serious but stable condition after being bitten by a reptile. He was walking his dog beside the Boyne River late yesterday afternoon when he almost stepped on the animal, believing it to be a log. "When I looked down I thought it was just a log," he said. "Then, even though its mouth and eyes were closed, I saw its teeth."

NAME

First Facts Reptiles



4 Circle the names of reptiles in the wordfind.
There are six reptiles to find.

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

~~— SNAKE —~~

TORTOISE

ALLIGATOR

LIZARD

CROCODILE

TURTLE

5 Cut and paste the features of a legless lizard and a snake.

Legless lizard	Snake

NAME

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can be venomous	pointy nose	no scaly flaps under body	non-venomous
rounded nose	forked tongue	scaly flaps under body	tongue not forked