

The strange world of Australian animals



Australia has been called “the land of differences”, and “the continent of contrasts”. It certainly is both.



The first thing most people think of are the strange native animals of the continent.

Early in the world's history Australia was separated from the other continents and its animals developed differently.



Of these, the strangest of all are the waterloving *platypus* and the *echidna*.



The appearance of the platypus is so unusual that when the skin of one was first sent to England some scientists said that no such animal could possibly exist.

The only egg-laying mammals in the world come from Australia, they are the platypus and the echidna.



Australia is also the home of the *kangaroos*. We call the kangaroo a pouched animal because the she-kangaroo has a pouch on her belly in which she carries her cubs. The kangaroos may be as large as a sheep or as small as a rabbit. The kangaroo's fur is very soft. It is of greyish-brown colour.



The kangaroo has a very long and strong tail. It does not run but jumps. It can jump 9 metres long. It can jump very fast – 30 kilometres per hour. Kangaroo-cubs are very small – only 3 centimetres long.

Kangaroos always live in herds. They live in the plains but sometimes go to the forest.



The koala is a tree-living, comical-looking animal.

It lives on the leaves of eucalyptus trees. It will eat nothing more. The *koala* usually sleeps during the day.



Puzzle-story. Guess the animal.

It is one of Australia's wild animals, which kills other animals at night. It fills the silent night with its terrible cries. It attacks and kills sheep. To protect the sheep in some districts much money is spent on hunting and killing them. In colour it is reddish-brown or yellow. Its feet and the end of its tail are whitish. Scientists think that it was once a pet animal of the aborigines, but then it went wild.



The native birds of Australia.

The native birds of Australia are very interesting.

The *emu*, for example, which, with the kangaroo, is represented on the Australian coat-of-arms, is the next tallest bird in the world after the ostrich. It cannot fly but runs very fast.



The *kookaburra* (or laughing jackass) can imitate different sounds. It can even “bark”. That’s why some Australian farmers prefer to keep kookaburras instead of dogs to warn them about strangers. The kookaburra’s laugh is the signal of some radio programs in Australia.



There are more than 750 species of birds in Australia, 300 of which are found nowhere else in the world. Among them are lots of different *parrots*, hundreds of small fairy *penguins*, *black swans* and a variety of other water birds.



Balmont

Are you real? Or I merely dream of you?
Are you just black paper cuttings with some glue?
No, Australian black swan is swimming on
Green-blue water! He is a real, real swan!!
Kangaroos in jumps in shades of many a tree
Are enticing, are inviting you and me.
And enchanted water holes among its grass,
Like hothouses, keep lotuses for us.
Spears-alike, the eucalyptus bluish trunks
Sway above the bush in bloom on river banks.
Honey-eaters hover there, among the thorns,
Waenga-bird is nightingaling her concerns.
Kookaburras laugh in branches's loud and clear
And reminds of stories heard in childhood years ...



Австралийский чёрный лебедь на волне,
Словно в сказке на картинке, виден мне.
Настоящий, проплывает предо мной,
Весь змеиный, весь узорный, вырезной.
И воистину влечёт мечту в игру
Настоящими прыжками кенгуру.
И в хранимом зачарованном прудке
Светят лотосы во влажном ручейке.
Голубеет эвкалипта стройный ствол,
Куст невиданной акации расцвёл.
Как колибри, медонос припал к цветку,
Птица-флейта засвирелила тоску.
И хохочут зимородки по ветвям,
Словно в сказке, что сказали в детстве нам.



Thanks for your attention!

