

Let's Read!

Text 2

Encourage your child to point to the words while reading, if needed. If your child needs help reading an unfamiliar word, encourage him or her to say sounds in the word and then blend them together to read the word. If it is a longer word, encourage your child to read parts of the word separately and then put the parts together to read the whole word. If your child needs more support, model reading each word or sentence first and then have your child read what you read.

Directions:

1. Ask your child to read the word list in the Word List column before reading the text. Help your child with any words that are difficult.
2. Talk about the meaning of the text.

Word List	Text
	Kangaroos by Nicholas Weidner (second grade student)
	If you want to learn about kangaroos, read on! This report is about the characteristics, habitat, diet, and life cycle of kangaroos.
	Kangaroos have very strong back legs, a powerful tail, and little front legs. They are the biggest of all of the marsupials, as tall as six feet! The gray kangaroo, the most-known kangaroo of their family, weighs about 145 pounds as an adult and is approximately ten feet long. The kangaroo's tail is about four feet long.
characteristics	Kangaroos live in eastern Australia in troops, or herds, which are small groups of 50 or more kangaroos. People who live in Australia call troops of kangaroos, mobs. Kangaroos are herbivores because they eat mostly plants.
habitat	Humans and dingoes (wild dogs) are predators to kangaroos. Kangaroos' biggest danger is their habitat disappearing.
marsupial	Kangaroos are in the Macropus animal family, which means "big foot."
approximately	Kangaroos have large feet that allow them to jump 30 feet in one hop! They use their tails to balance and can run faster than 30 miles per hour. When in danger, kangaroos smack with their feet to alert other kangaroos. Kangaroos protect themselves by kicking and biting.
herbivores	Baby kangaroos, called joeys, are only one inch long when they are born. Joeys live in a pouch on their mother's belly. After a joey is born, it moves through their mom's fur to her pouch. The kangaroo mom pumps milk down a joey's throat because joeys cannot nurse. When a joey turns four months old, he leaves the pouch for short trips to eat grass and shrubs. The joey is old enough to leave the pouch forever at ten months old.
	I hope you enjoyed learning about the characteristics, habitat, diet, and life cycle of kangaroos. If you want to learn more, read books about kangaroos!