

In The Australian Bush

ST2-4LW-S

Students learn how structural features and adaptations help animals survive in their environment

Koala Label It!

Koalas have many external features and adaptations that help them to survive the harsh Australian bush! Use the words in the word bank to help you label the koala diagram correctly!



Word Bank

Paws

Large Nose

Intestines

Pouch

Skeleton

Koala Adaptation Fact File

Koala paws –

A koala's paws are specially adapted for gripping and climbing. Rough pads and soles help it to grip tree trunks and branches, and both front and hind paws have long sharp claws.

Large nose –

Koala noses are sensitive to smells - so much so that they can detect another koala from up to 5km away! They can also use their nose to detect the specific chemical profile of every eucalyptus leaf they sniff out.

Intestines –

The koalas' intestines are specialised for digesting eucalyptus leaves. Extensive chewing chops the leaves into tiny pieces, increasing exposure to all of those digestive juices. Parts of the digestive system house many specialised bacteria that assist with the digestion.

Skeleton –

Koalas have a curved spine to curl up in the trees and maintain stability. They also have a bony plate to wedge into the fork of the tree.

Pouch –

Koalas are marsupials, which means they have a small pouch in their front. This allows them to have a quick pregnancy and can look after their babies easily without the threat of predators hurting them!