

# Flying Squirrels



The flying squirrel is a small mammal. There are 44 species of flying squirrels. Flying squirrels can be found in tree tops all over the world.

Flying squirrels cannot really fly, but they can glide from branch to branch and tree to tree. They are able to glide because of loose skin that hangs from their wrists to their ankles. When a flying squirrel wants to glide, it spreads its arms and legs out so that the loose skin catches a pocket of air. Just like a parachute! Flying squirrels are able to glide 160 feet or more.

Flying squirrels are nocturnal. They can see well at night because of their very big eyes.

Flying squirrels are omnivores. They are not picky eaters and will eat many different things. They especially like to eat nuts, berries and insects.

## Short Answer Questions

1. Can flying squirrels really fly?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do flying squirrels like to eat?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## True or False?

1. There are 34 species of flying squirrels.

True      False

2. Flying squirrels can glide 160 feet or more.

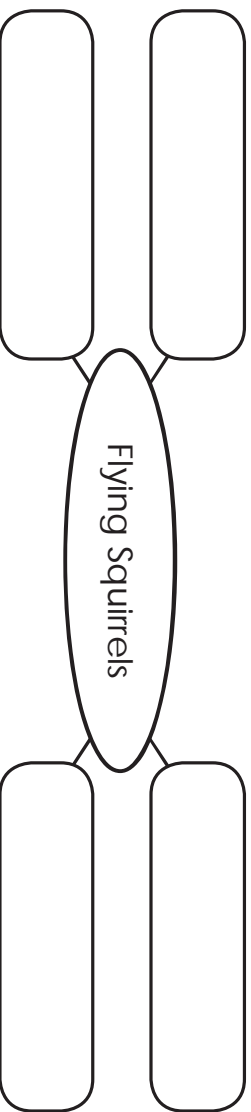
True      False

3. Flying squirrels are omnivores.

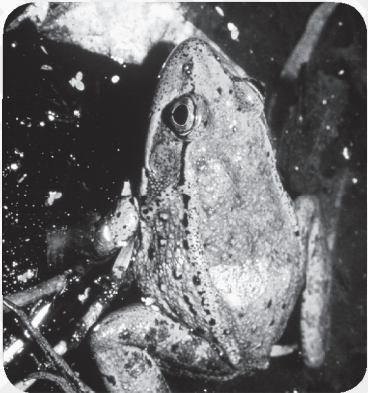
True      False

## All About Flying Squirrels

In the boxes, write some words that describe flying squirrels.



# Frogs



The frog is an amphibian. There are almost 5,000 known species of frogs, including the pouched frog, the strawberry poison-dart frog and the

rainforest rocket frog, to name a few.

Frogs live in many different places. Many frogs can be found in tropical rainforests.

Like all amphibians, frogs are cold-blooded. This means they need to sit in the sun to warm their bodies. They are great swimmers and jumpers because of their strong legs and webbed feet.

When a frog hatches from its egg, it is called a tadpole. A tadpole looks different than a frog because it has gills and no arms or legs. It also lives in the water. A tadpole soon grows arms and legs and leaves the water to live life on land as a frog.

Almost all frogs are carnivores. They like to eat things like snails, slugs and worms.

## Short Answer Questions

1. What makes frogs great swimmers and jumpers?

2. What are some of the things that frogs like to eat?

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is a frog?

- a. A fish.
- b. A bird.
- c. An amphibian.

2. What is a frog called when it first hatches?

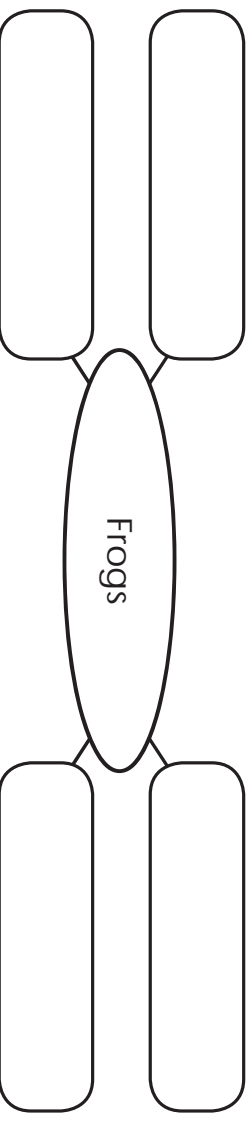
- a. A joey.
- b. A fish.
- c. A tadpole.

3. How many known species of frogs are there?

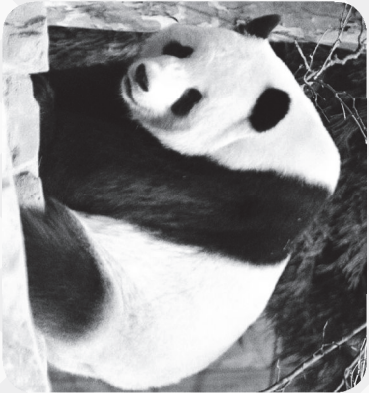
- a. Almost 5,000.
- b. About 1,000.
- c. 50 - 100.

## All About Frogs

In the boxes, write some words that describe frogs.



# Giant Pandas



The giant panda is a mammal. Giant pandas have black fur on their ears, muzzles, shoulders, legs and around their eyes. They have white fur on the rest of their bodies. Some scientists think that the black and white fur **camouflages** the giant panda in the snowy mountains.

Giant pandas live in bamboo forests in China. Their favorite food is bamboo, and they eat a lot of it! In one day, one giant panda may eat up to 40 pounds of bamboo leaves!

Giant pandas love eating, and they also love sleeping! Many kinds of bears hibernate but the giant panda does not.

Giant pandas are an endangered animal. The *World Wide Fund for Nature*, which is an organization that helps the environment, has used the giant panda as its mascot since the 1960s. Giant pandas have become a symbol for all endangered animals.

## Short Answer Questions

1. What do giant pandas look like?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do giant pandas eat?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Choice Questions

- Where do giant pandas live?
  - China.
  - North America.
  - South Africa.
- What is the favorite food of giant pandas?
  - Small rodents.
  - Fish.
  - Bamboo.
- What has the giant panda become a mascot for?
  - Bears.
  - Endangered animals.
  - Forest animals.

## True or False?

- Giant pandas live in bamboo forests. True      False
- Giant pandas have white fur around their eyes. True      False
- The giant panda is an endangered animal. True      False

# Humpback Whales



The humpback whale is a mammal.

Humpback whales are very big! They can weigh up to 50 tons and grow

to be around 50 feet long! The heart of a humpback whale alone weighs over 400 pounds! Humpbacks can be white, gray, black or mottled. *Mottled* means spotted or smeared with different shades or colors.

Humpbacks have a fluke. A *fluke* is a tail fin. Humpback whales use their flukes to push themselves out of the water so that they can breathe in air. When they come out of the water, humpback whales like to make a big splash called a *breach*.

Humpback whales live with other whales in a group. This group is called a *pod*. Humpbacks live in different places, including the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Humpback whales like to eat small fish, plankton and krill. In fact, one whale eats about 5,000 pounds of such food a day!

## Short Answer Questions

1. How big is a humpback whale?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do humpback whales eat?

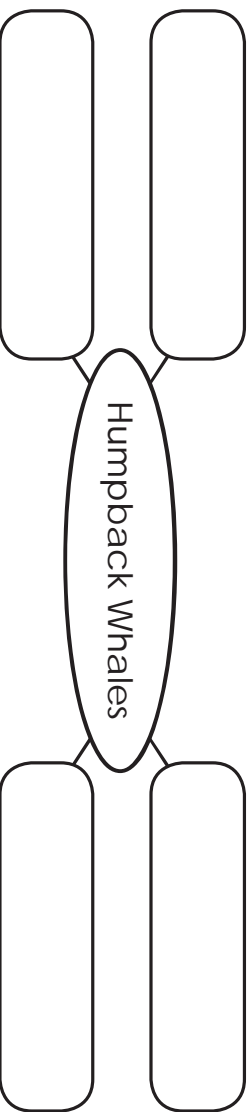
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## True or False?

- 1. The humpback whale has a tail fin called a fluke.      True      False
- 2. A big humpback whale splash is called a breach.      True      False
- 3. A group of humpback whales is called a camp.      True      False

## All About Humpback Whales

In the boxes, write some words that describe humpback whales.



# Kangaroos



The kangaroo is a type of mammal called a marsupial.

Kangaroos are famous for the way they hop from place to place. They do this because their hind legs have to move together at the same time.

Because of their strong hind legs and tail, kangaroos are very fast movers! They can hop along at 35 miles an hour and can leap a distance of 30 feet! Kangaroos have coarse, thick hair that can be red, brown or gray.

Like all marsupials, kangaroos have pouches for their babies. A kangaroo baby is called a joey. Joeys are hairless and blind when they are born. Joeys live in their mother's pouches until they are about a year old.

Kangaroos live in Australia and Tasmania. They like to live in many different types of places, such as forests and grassy plains.

Kangaroos are herbivores, so they mostly eat grasses. They are able to go a long time without drinking water.

## Short Answer Questions

1. How do kangaroos move around?

2. What is a 'joey'?

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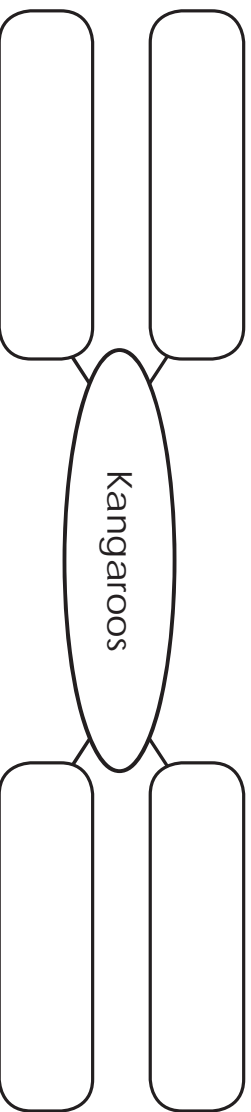
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## Multiple Choice Questions

- How fast can a kangaroo hop?
  - 35 miles an hour.
  - 30 miles an hour.
  - 20 miles an hour.
- Where do kangaroos *NOT* live?
  - Australia.
  - China.
  - Tasmania.
- What can kangaroos go a long time without?
  - Sleep.
  - Air.
  - Water.

## All About Kangaroos

In the boxes, write some words that describe kangaroos.



# Komodo Dragons



The Komodo dragon is a reptile. Komodo dragons are the largest lizard in the world.

Komodo dragons

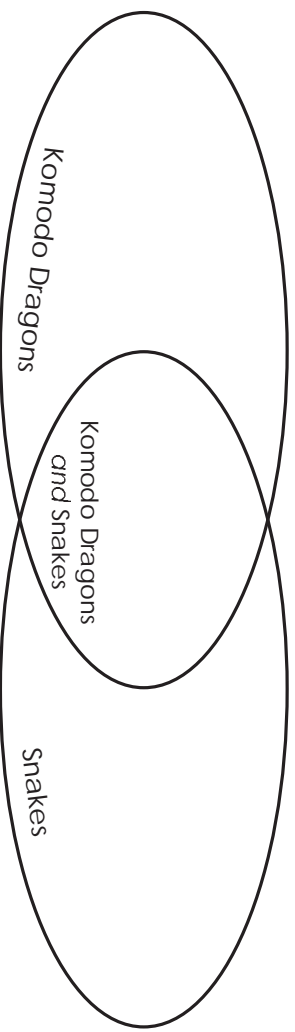
are big! They can grow to be up to 10 feet long! Just like snakes, they have long, forked tongues. They use their tongues to smell. The saliva of the Komodo dragon is deadly to other animals. If a Komodo dragon bites an animal, his saliva will poison the animal to death. The Komodo dragon can then eat its meal.

Komodo dragons will eat anything, as long as it is meat! They will even eat other Komodo dragons!

Komodo dragons can be found on a few Indonesian islands. Indonesia is a country in Asia. Komodo dragons sleep in burrows at night and look for food during the day. If a Komodo dragon can't find anything to eat, it is not a problem – Komodo dragons can live for days and even weeks without eating anything!

## Comparing Animals

In which ways are Komodo Dragons and snakes similar and different?



## Short Answer Questions

1. What do Komodo dragons like to eat?

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2. Where do Komodo dragons live?

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## True or False?

1. The Komodo dragon is a reptile. True    False
2. Komodo dragons can grow to be 20 feet long. True    False
3. Komodo dragons like to eat meat. True    False
4. Komodo dragons live in China. True    False