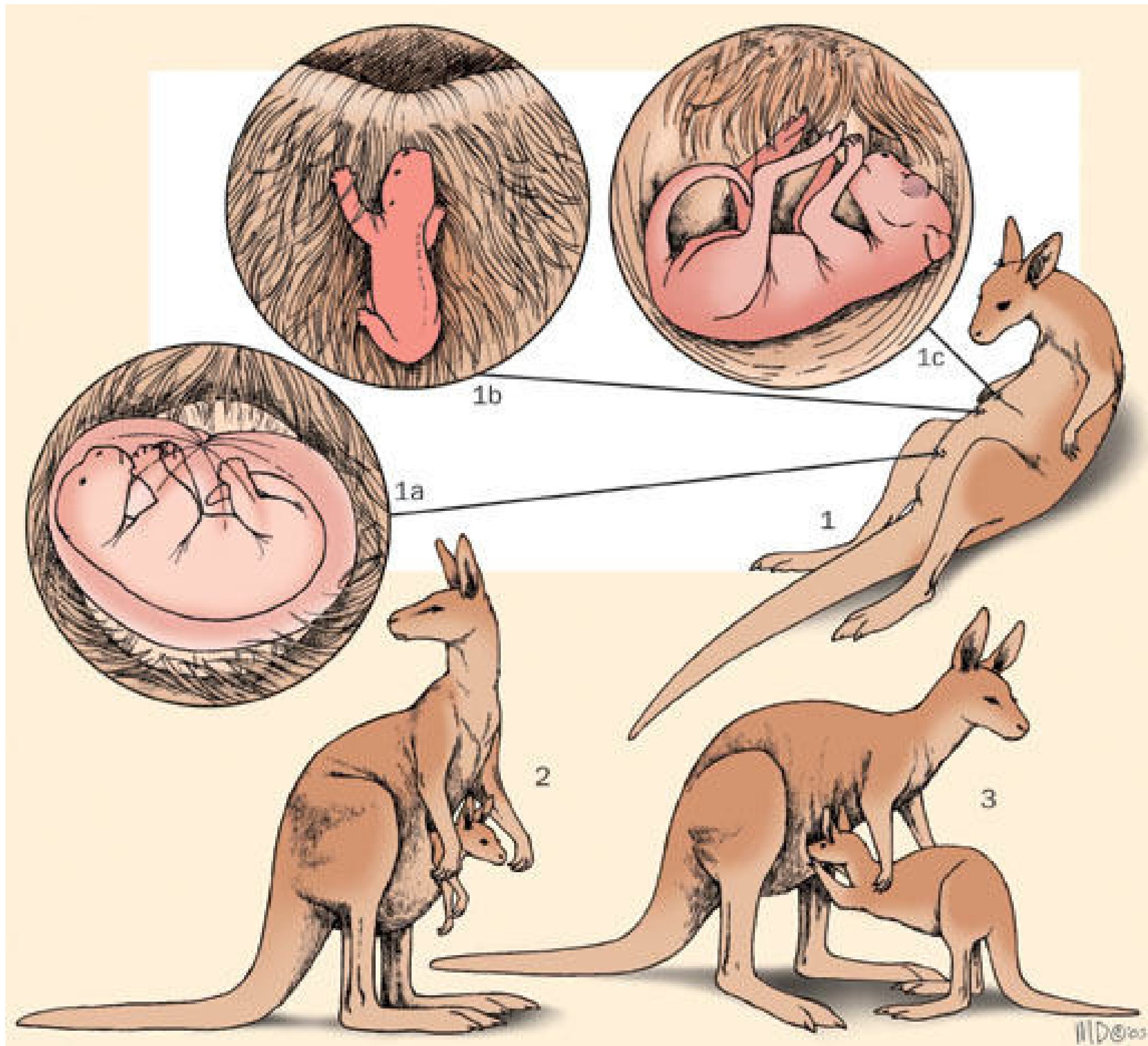


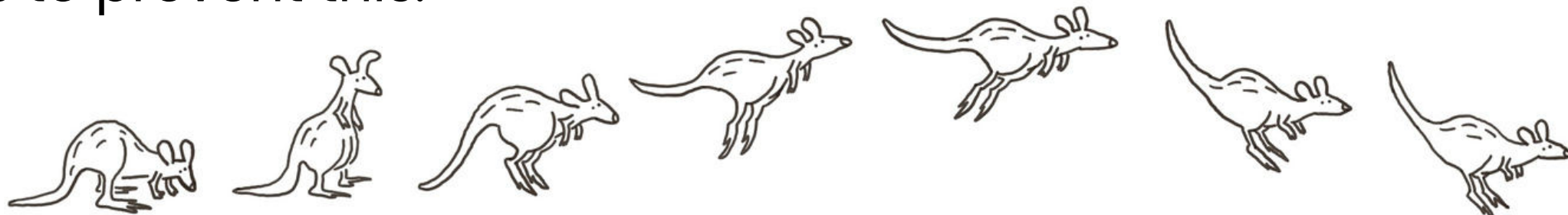
BIRTH & PREGNANCY



The gestation period for kangaroos is about 4 week. The 'pinkie' about the size of a grape (2.5cm) then crawls up into the mothers pouch where it attaches itself to one of its mothers 4 nipples. The joey leaves its mothers pouch for short periods once it has grown fur at about 6months of age and will drink milk until it is about 1 year old.

Mothers have an extraordinary ability to provide different milk formulas if they have two joeys, one 'in-pouch' and one 'at-foot'. The in-utero young is supported by a pseudo-placenta. Mothers also have an ability to pause a in-utero pregnancy with hormonal changes. A mother can have up to 8 joeys in her lifetime with only 2 surviving.

Red kangaroos can become infertile in high temperatures and lick their scrotums to prevent this.



GREETINGS

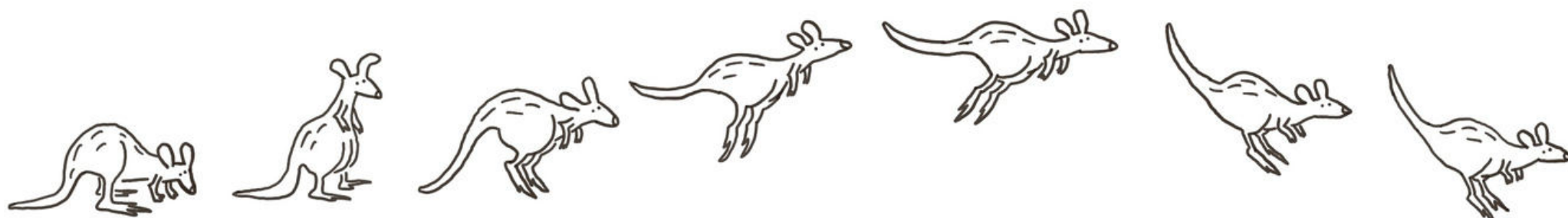


How do humans greet each other?

How do Kangaroos greet each other?

Many Kangaroos introduce themselves to others in this 'sharing breath' - 'smelling' way - quite similar to a kiss on the cheek by humans. Some immediately seek out and greet new folks this way while others hang back to pick and choose who they're going to greet.

What other things could Kangaroos be sharing during this act? Knowledge of water, foods and medicinal plants nearby, perhaps the presence of danger or their ancestral knowledge?

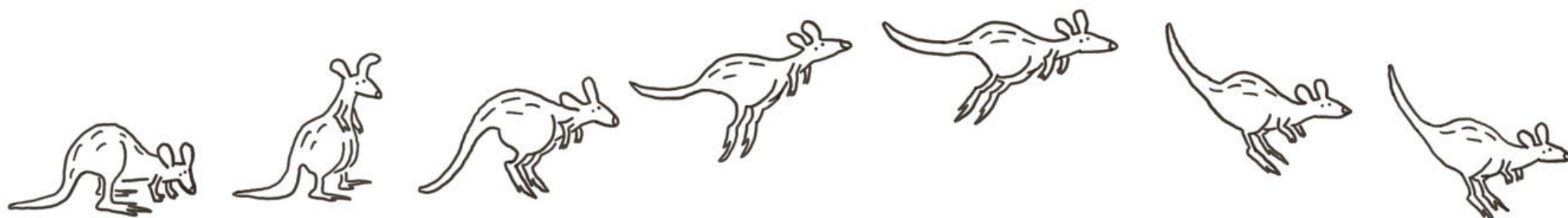


COMMUNICATION



Communication

If you're looking at Kangas who are looking at you, tilt your head to one side and shake it softly a few times to say hello and see who replies. Kangaroos communicate with each other through these head waves usually accompanied by vocalisations as well.

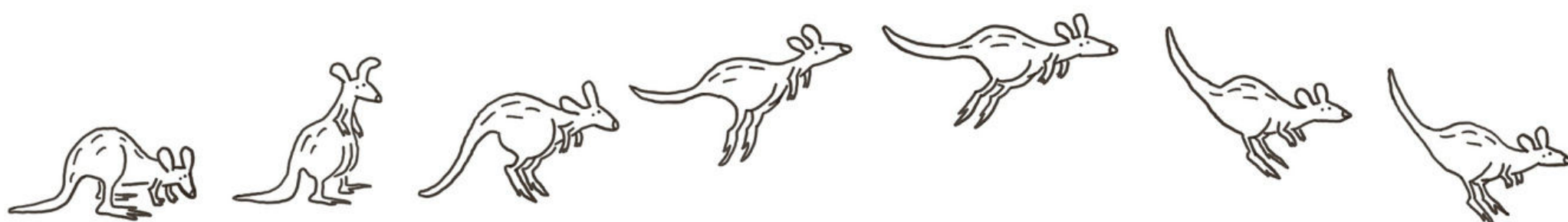


EARS



360 degree coverage

Kangaroos have excellent hearing and can rotate their ears 180 degrees so they can scan a full circle. Mobs will also work together to pick up sounds in all directions. Look at all the directions ears are facing in this photo.



DIET



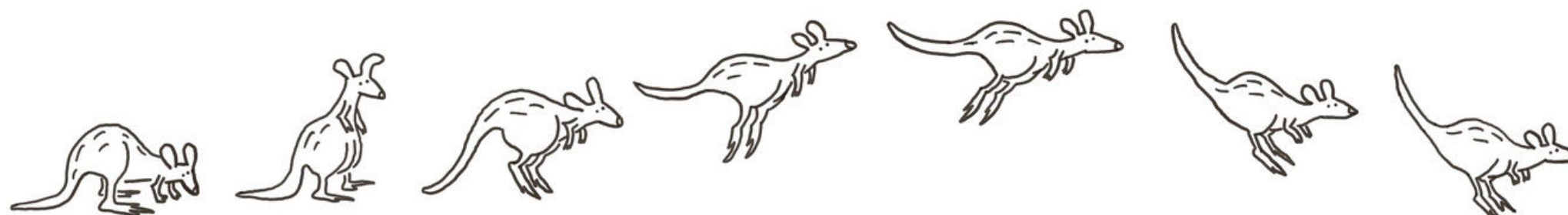
What do you think Kangaroos eat?

Kangaroos don't only eat grass, they eat and need a wide variety of Australian native plants. Kangaroos can be seen grazing leafy, green grasses or picking the blades and seed bearers from sedges. Sometimes they will dig down to the base and roots of a plant to obtain essential minerals and nutrients from the roots and surrounding soil. Yes, they eat soil! When they do this, they are contributing to the survival of the plant during drought by creating a small water-catching basin to feed the plant's root system.

A very important part of the Kangaroo diet is bark. Kangaroos eat the bark of many trees but can most often be seen devouring strips off stringy bark trees. An excellent source of fibre and nutrients, some types of bark have also been proven to contain anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties.

A vast array of mosses, lichens, shrubs, orchids and other wild flowers are eaten by Kangaroos and seem to form part of their 'medicine cabinet'.

Importantly, kangaroos eat large amounts of dry grass and vegetation which is not only very good for them, but also serves a very important purpose in minimising bush fire risk and intensity during Australia's long, hot summers.



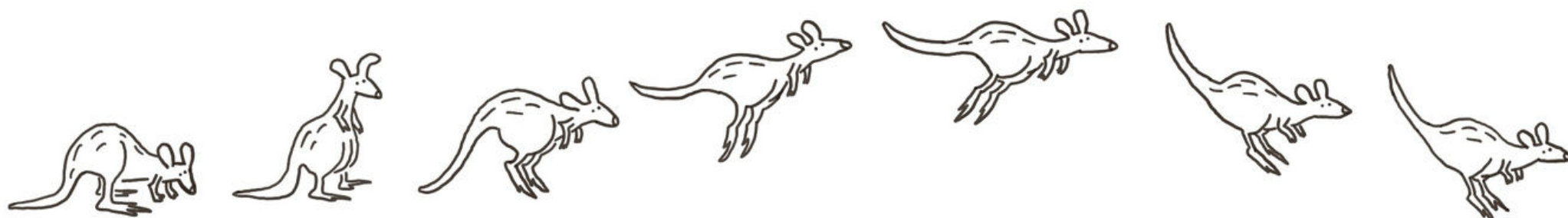
TREE RUBBING



Why do you think kangaroo rub trees?

Look for any trees with the bark striped back. Many trees including bark are used by kangaroos for medicinal purposes.

You will find 'rubbing trees' can be surrounded by many trees of the same species but the rubbing trees seem to be specially chosen. We don't know why. Maybe to mark a territory? Or as a post office where kangaroos leave each other messages with their scent?



BOXING

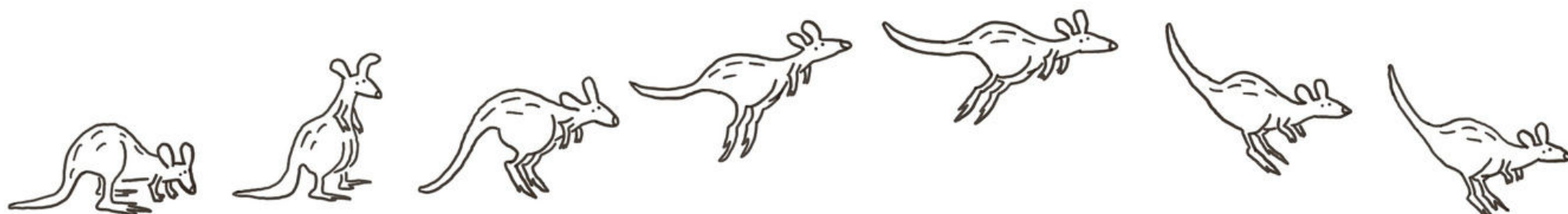


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What sports do you train for?

Joeys start playfully boxing at a young age to develop their skills and muscles. As they get older and boxing becomes more serious the main reasons kangaroos box is to gain positions of hierarchy.

Some species such as eastern greys and wallaroos make a coughing noise to show submission when they are losing a skirmish.



FAMILY



How does this mob look compared to your family?

Mobs vary in size and structure. Although mobs have a 'Head male' they are made up of female blood lines. Eastern Grey bucks stay with their mother until they are 3 to 4 years old and then find a mob away from the genetic lines of the mother. The 'Head male' breeds with the females of the mob and will defend his position by boxing other males when necessary. A mob works together to find food, look after young and being on alert for predators.

Every mob is different and depending on personalities some daughters will venture away while a son may stay closer to his mother. Some boys form 'bachelor groups'. It is also not only the 'Head male' defending the group. Grandmothers will stand stoically and face a threat while other family members escape. Female Eastern Grey Kangaroos do not experience menopause but early on they tend to produce female offspring then males towards the end of their reproductive lives.

