

AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

The Fauna of Australia consists of a huge variety of animals: 83% of mammals, 89% of reptiles, 24% of fish and 93% of amphibians. There is a large group of invertebrates: the insects.

Monotreme and Marsupials

In Australia there are two of the five species of monotreme: the Platypus and the short – beaked echidna. It is a semiaquatic mammal endemic to eastern Australia.



They are different to other mammals in their methods of reproduction: monotremes lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young.

Marsupials, instead, are characterised by the presence of a pouch in which they bear their

young. The koala doesn't normally need to drink, because it can obtain all of the moisture it needs by eating leaves. In this category there are also kangaroos, they are large and they have got large feet adapted for leaping, a long muscular tail for balance, and a small head.



Placental mammals

nearly 4000 species, mostly rodents and bats. They include whales, elephants, shrews, and armadillos.

Australia has indigenous placental mammals. The first placental mammal introduced to Australia was the dingo. Many marine mammals are in Australian coastal waters together with oceanic dolphins, such as the orca.

Placental mammals are a rather different group, with



Birds

Australia and its territories are home to around 800 species of bird, for example the passerines of Australia, also known as songbirds or perching birds.

About 200 species of seabirds live on the Australian coasts, including many species of migratory seabirds.



Reptiles

In Australia there are four families of native frogs. Australia has also two species of crocodiles. The saltwater crocodile is the largest species in the world.



They live on the coast and in the freshwater rivers. Freshwater crocodiles are not considered dangerous to humans.

In this category there are also snakes, goannas and lizards.

Arianna M. 3A