

Year 7

The Biology Of Mammals, Birds & Reptiles

Student Worksheet



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The mammals found within Australia can be classified into three main groups. They are **PLACENTALS**, **MARSUPIALS** and **MONOTREMES**.

QUESTION 1

What are the key characteristics of each group?

Placentals: _____

Marsupials: _____

Monotremes: _____

Australia is famous for its wide variety of marsupials. Koalas, wombats, possums and kangaroos all belong to this group.

QUESTION 2

Complete the following table in relation to these 4 different marsupials.

	TIME IN POUCH	HABITAT	DIET	SPECIAL ADAPTATIONS
Koala	6 months			
Wombat				Continuously growing teeth
Kangaroo			Grasses and some plants	
Possum		Tree-tops		

As with mammals, birds are also split into different groups.

The Cassowary is in a group called the **RATITES**.

These birds are all flightless and the male always looks after the eggs and raises the chicks.

QUESTION 3

Can you name 4 other birds that fall into this group?

Hint: Look at the picture of Yarrabah the Cassowary and think of other birds that look similar.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____





Reptiles also fall into groups: **SNAKES, LIZARDS AND TURTLES.**

QUESTION 41

What are some of the key characteristics of each group?

Snakes: _____

Lizards: _____

Turtles: _____

Crocodiles are REALLY BIG LIZARDS and have been around for 65 million years. There are 26 different species of crocodiles in the world.

QUESTION 5

How many species do we have in Australia and what do we call them?

QUESTION 6

Which one is found ONLY in Australia?

QUESTION 7

Complete the following table to show the differences between the two species of crocodile

	Freshwater Crocodile	Estuarine Crocodile
Size	Up to about 3m	
Where does it live?		Fresh and brackish water
Draw the shape of the head		
Feeds on		Fish, crabs, mammals, birds, Billabong Sanctuary rangers.
Are they territorial?	No	