



EVERYONE knows the kangaroo and koala.
But what are some other interesting
AUSTRALIAN animals?



Cassowary

The cassowary is like a modern dinosaur! This giant bird weighs 70kgs and is up to 1.8m tall. It is too big to fly, but it can run 50km/h and jump 1.5m off the ground. Using their sharp claws, they attack by jumping into the air and slash downwards with their feet. They can also swim – if they want to catch you, they will!



Kookaburra

The kookaburra is a bird that laughs every day, in the morning and evening. They do this together with other birds in their family to protect their territory. Kookaburra families laugh in the same way. This laugh is social – if the kookaburra is alone, for example, in a zoo, it will not laugh.



Dingo

A dingo is a kind of wild dog. They are medium in size and can run as fast as 60km/h. Their fur is white or sand-colored. They hunt anything from kangaroos to fish, and farm animals too, like sheep and cows. Tourists sometimes confuse them for harmless animals and feed them. However, dingos have killed and eaten small children before.

Tasmanian Devil

The Tasmanian Devil used to be found throughout Australia, but now only lives on the southern island of Tasmania. It hunts and kills animals that have been introduced to Australia, like foxes and wild cats.





Echidna

The Echidna is a spiky animal, like a European hedgehog. They curl into a ball to keep safe from attacks. They have a very long tongue which they use to catch ants. They are one of two mammals in the world that lay eggs, the other animal being the platypus.



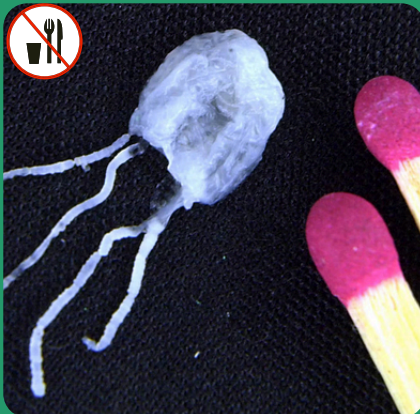
Saltwater Crocodile

The saltwater crocodile is a true living dinosaur, and hasn't changed much in millions of years. It is the largest reptile in the world. They can be 6 meters long, and weigh as much as 1,200 kilograms – as heavy as two kei-cars!



Quokka

The Quokka is a small kangaroo-like animal. It mostly lives on Rottnest Island, near Western Australia. Few animals hunt them, so they are very carefree and friendly. They will happily approach humans. They have a cute smile, so many tourists travel to get pictures with them.



Irukandji Jellyfish

The Irukandji Jellyfish is one of the smallest and most poisonous jellyfish in the world. Its body is just 1cm, but its tentacles can be over 1m long. So, it is very hard to see in the water. They are found in the warm waters in the north of Australia. Their poison can kill.



Platypus

The Platypus is a mammal that lives in rivers. Like the echidna, it lays eggs. Its large mouth can detect electricity in other animals, which it uses to hunt in dark water. It has a spike on its foot that is poisonous. It is a popular mascot animal in Australia, and can be seen on Australian money.



Possum

The Possum eats fruits and vegetables, and is active only at night. During the day it sleeps. It is very common across Australia. It can be found in trees in Australian cities, and will sometimes live inside the roofs of buildings and homes. Although wild, they are very gentle, and can be given food by hand.

Quiz

1. Can the cassowary fly?
2. How fast can the dingo run?
3. How does the echidna catch ants?
4. How heavy is the saltwater crocodile?
5. Why is the quokka so carefree and friendly?
6. What is special about the echidna and platypus?
7. Can you eat a possum?



New Words

Mammal (名): 哺乳類
Claw (名): 爪
Slash (動): 切り付ける
Territory (名): 縄張り
Spiky (形容): とがった

Curl (動): 丸くなる
Reptile (名): 爬虫類
Approach (動): 近づく
Tentacle (名): 触手
Detect (動): 検出する

Quiz Answers

1. No, the cassowary can't fly.
2. It can run 60km/h.
3. It uses its long tongue.
4. It can weigh as much as 1,200 kilograms.
5. Few animals hunt it.
6. They are mammals that also lay eggs.
7. Yes, you can eat possums.



ENGLISH SPEAKING SOCIETY (ESS) RESPONSES

Ota Higashi High School

What is your favorite animal and why?

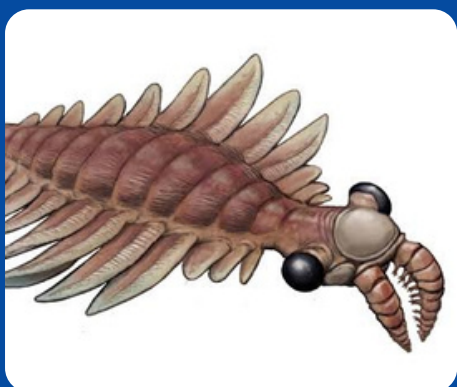


The Dolphin by Krit

My favorite animals are dolphins because they are very clever. Due to their intelligence, they can even communicate with humans. They can use echolocation (反響定位, エコーロケーション) to hear objects underwater. They can swim for a long time because they save a lot of oxygen in their blood and muscles. Also, dolphins rest by only putting half their brain to sleep. So they can still swim around, hunt, and play, like normal, while still getting enough rest.

The Shiba Inu Dog by Anri

My favorite animals are dogs. In particular, I like the Shiba Inu breed of dog. I have two reasons. First, they are symbols of Japan. Second, I used to have a Shiba dog. His name was "Shinnosuke". He was very cute and energetic. So I really like Japanese Shiba Inu dogs.

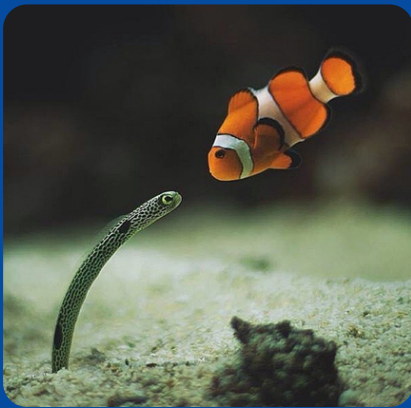


The Anomalocaris by Melissa

My favorite animal is the anomalocaris because to me, they are cute. They were the strongest predator and the largest creature during the Cambrian period, millions of years ago. Their name means "strange shrimp" because they looked like shrimp when fossils were found, but later, the paleontologists found that they were different from today's shrimp. So now, they are classified in the Anomalocaris family and the genus Anomalocaris.

The Border Collie Dog by Sota

My favorite animal is the Border Collie breed of dog, because they are the smartest dogs. And their smiles are very cute. They are so smart, they can communicate using special buttons they push, which say things. I really want to communicate with them too!

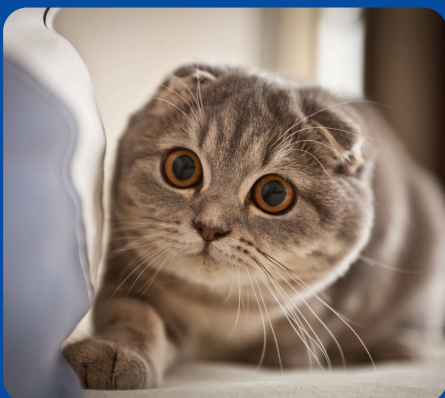


The Spotted Garden Eel by Ayumi

I really like the spotted garden eel. I think they have very cute faces. I fell in love with them when I saw them at the aquarium, with their mouths opening and closing. They can pop in and out of the sand, to look around, and hide from danger.

My Dog Gintoki by Mito

I love my dog, Gintoki, because he is the most attractive animal in the world. His breed is a Papillon. They have nice ears, a long tail, and other beautiful features. Gintoki is cute, but he is also a little aggressive. Sometimes when I play with him, he suddenly shows his sharp teeth, like he wants to bite my hand...



The Cat by Koki

I like cats because they are cute and cool. Their behavior makes me relax. Cats apparently spend half the day sleeping. In particular, I like Scottish Folds because their fur and eyes are so cute. But I have never had animals so I want to have a cat in the future.

The Wombat by Haruto

My favorite animal is the wombat because they are so cute. Wombats are small, burrowing mammals from Australia. They are known for their powerful bodies, short legs, and strong claws, which they use for digging long tunnel systems to live in. Wombats are active at night. They also have cube-shaped poop. They can block the entrance to their tunnels with their bottoms.



The Goldfish by Takumi



The goldfish is elegant and beautiful. When we see them, we feel refreshed and cool. I have hundreds of them at home. I have been keeping them as pets for five years. I also have medaka fish. I believe goldfish and medaka fish make us feel as though summer has come.

Outgoing ESS Club Leader's Final Message

Hello everyone!

まずは3年生として課外や生徒会長としての用事が重なって活動に参加できる日が少なかったことが申し訳ないです。私が入部したときは部員は今より少なく当時の1年生は私ひとりだけでした。そんななか入部してくれた2年生にとっても感謝しています。そんなESSで私は英語でコミュニケーションを取って様々な活動を試行錯誤する時間はとても新鮮でした。まだいつ最後の活動となるかわかりませんが部員とMr. Jamesと岡島先生に感謝します。

これからもESS が積極的に活動してくれることを祈ってます。

Thankyou for all the fun club activities we shared together. I hope you continue to enjoy ESS club activities together, with smiles, and positivity.

See you around!

KOKI-SENPAI

