

## Core Skills Analysis

### Geography

- Henry identified that koalas live in Australia, linking the animal to its continent and geographic region.
- He connected the classification of marsupials to other Australian natives—kangaroos and wombats—showing an understanding of regional animal groups.
- He observed specific physical adaptations (two thumbs and three fingers) that enable koalas to thrive in tree-based habitats, linking anatomy to environment.
- He recognized unique behaviors such as tree-to-tree jumping and the tiny size of newborns, illustrating how a species fits into its ecological niche.

### Tips

To deepen Henry's geographic and ecological understanding, try a hands-on map activity where he places pictures of koalas, kangaroos, and wombats on a large map of Australia, discussing climate zones and habitats. Follow up with a simple family-tree chart that groups marsupials together, reinforcing classification skills. Create a sensory "Koala Habitat" box with eucalyptus leaves, bark, and branches for role-play, letting Henry act out how the animal moves and feeds. Finally, read another short nonfiction book about Australian wildlife and have Henry compare the new information with what he learned about koalas, encouraging critical thinking and vocabulary growth.

### Book Recommendations

- [Koala Lou](#) by Mem Fox: A gentle story about a koala who learns to sleep on her own, introducing young readers to koala habits and their Australian home.
- [Possums and Koalas: Australia's Amazing Marsupials](#) by Gail Gibbons: Brightly illustrated nonfiction that explains marsupial traits, habitats, and life cycles, perfect for curious 5-year-olds.
- [Australia: The Amazing Land Down Under](#) by National Geographic Kids: An engaging picture book that showcases Australian landscapes and its iconic animals, helping children connect geography with wildlife.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1 – Ask and answer questions about key details in a text (e.g., What is a marsupial?)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.2 – Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text (koalas, their habitat, and traits)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.4 – Determine the meaning of unknown words using context clues (marsupial, thumb)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7 – With prompting, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text (pictures of koalas and map of Australia)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1 – Participate in collaborative conversations about the reading, sharing observations about animal adaptations

### Try This Next

- Worksheet: "Match the Animal to Its Continent" – include koala, kangaroo, wombat, and animals from other continents.
- Quiz Question: "Which of these animals is a marsupial?" with pictures of a koala, a rabbit, a bird, and a fish.
- Drawing Task: "Design a Koala Habitat" – have Henry draw trees, eucalyptus leaves, and a safe nest, labeling key features.
- Writing Prompt: "Imagine you are a baby koala the size of a jelly bean. Describe your first day

in the tree."