

Kuddly Koalas: A Eucalyptus Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- Paper (white and colored)
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Optional: child-safe scissors, glue
- Optional: Small cardboard box or shoebox for diorama
- Optional: Natural craft materials (twigs, leaves - if available and safe)
- Access to internet for suggested videos/images (with supervision)

Lesson Introduction: Hello Little Joey! (10 minutes)

G'day Mate! Today, we're going on an amazing adventure to Australia, all without leaving our home! We're going to meet one of the cutest, fuzziest, and sleepest animals on the planet. Can you guess who it is? That's right, the Koala!

Think about this: If you could ask a Koala one question, what would it be?

Part 1: Koala Facts - More Than Just a Cute Face! (20-30 minutes)

Let's become Koala experts! Did you know Koalas are not bears? They are marsupials, which means the mother Koala carries her baby, called a 'joey,' in a special pouch!

- **What's for Dinner?** Koalas are very picky eaters! They mostly eat eucalyptus leaves. These leaves are poisonous to most animals, but Koalas have special tummies that can digest them. They can eat about 1 to 2 pounds (about half a kilogram to 1 kilogram) of leaves a day!
- **Home Sweet Tree:** Koalas live high up in eucalyptus trees in forests in Australia. These trees provide them with food and a safe place to sleep. They are excellent climbers!
- **Sleepy Heads:** Koalas sleep a LOT – up to 18-20 hours a day! This is because eucalyptus leaves don't give them much energy.
- **Unique Features:**
 - Koalas have two thumbs on each front paw to help them grip branches. How cool is that?
 - They have fingerprints, just like humans!
 - They have a great sense of smell to pick out the best eucalyptus leaves.

Optional Video Time: With a grown-up, try to find a short, fun video about Koalas on a kid-safe website (like National Geographic Kids or a zoo channel). See them in action!

Part 2: My Koala Habitat Creation! (30-45 minutes)

Now that we know so much about Koalas, let's get creative! Choose one of these activities:

1. **Draw a Koala in its Home:** Grab your paper and art supplies! Draw a Koala munching on eucalyptus leaves, climbing a tree, or napping on a branch. Make sure to include parts of its habitat, like the eucalyptus trees and maybe the Australian sunshine!
2. **Make a Koala Habitat Diorama (Optional):** If you have a small box, you can create a mini Koala world!
 - Paint or color the inside of the box to look like the sky and ground.
 - Use twigs for tree trunks and green paper or real (clean, dry) leaves for eucalyptus leaves.
 - Draw and cut out a Koala to place in your habitat.
3. **Koala Conservation Poster:** Koalas face challenges like habitat loss. Design a poster encouraging people to help protect Koalas and their homes. Think about what makes Koalas special and why they need our help.

Part 3: Show and Tell & Koala Quiz! (10-15 minutes)

Great job on your Koala creations! Let's share what you made.

Now, let's see what we've learned with some fun questions:

- What is a baby Koala called? (A joey)
- What is the main food Koalas eat? (Eucalyptus leaves)
- Are Koalas bears? (No, they are marsupials!)
- Name one special thing about a Koala's paws. (They have two thumbs on their front paws!)
- Why do Koalas sleep so much? (Eucalyptus leaves don't give much energy.)

Bonus Question: If you were a Koala for a day, what would you do first?

Conclusion: Keep Exploring!

You've done an amazing job learning about Koalas and their habitat! Remember, these unique animals are an important part of Australia's wildlife. Keep being curious and learning about the wonderful animals around the world!