

The Baby Kangaroo & the Baby Tasmanian Devil

Animal Babies: Born Wild Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis:

Follows Cindy's first day out of her mother's pouch. Her mother's jumping is filmed in slow and full motion as Cindy is shown the wonders of the world. A few months later, Cindy still doesn't like to leave her mother's pouch but she has become an excellent jumper. In the forest of Tasmania, the mother of two babies shows us how difficult it is to raise two marsupial babies.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify and describe the main characteristics of kangaroos and Tasmanian devils.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to explain the predominate characteristics of marsupials.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe how the baby animals are cared for by their parents.
- Objective 4)** Students will understand the concept of “family” in the animal and the human world.
- Objective 5)** Students will understand that all animals are defenseless when they are born but that they all learn to survive against predators and support themselves by finding their own sources of food.
- Objective 6)** Students will understand that for animals and for humans, learning is part of growth.
- Objective 7)** Students will understand that all babies grow to become adult members of their species.

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Where do baby kangaroos spend most of their time? How long do they stay with their mothers?
- 2) Do they have to be taught how to jump?
- 3) Where is Tasmania?
- 4) What are the outstanding characteristics of the animal known as a “Tasmanian devil”?

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Tasmania, marsupial, stroll, observing, technique, execute, timing, rudder, voracious, den, youngsters, restored, ideal, gluttonous, venturing, observing

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Why doesn't Cindy want to come out of her mother's pouch?
- 2) What does Cindy have to do before her mother will let her back in the pouch?

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- 3) Why does it take Cindy so long to leave her mother?
- 4) What is the main characteristic of Tasmanian devil babies?
- 5) Why does the Tasmanian devil mother put up with them?
- 6) What characteristics make these animals part of a classification of animals known as marsupials?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Write a story about baby kangaroo who doesn't want to leave his mother's pouch. Include all the reasons he'd rather stay inside.
- 2) One year later, tell what this baby kangaroo has learned about the world.
- 3) You are a mother Tasmanian devil with several children. Tell why you are so upset with them.
- 4) Write a letter to a friend telling the friend why you like living in the forests of Tasmania.
- 5) On the Internet or in the school media center, find further information about either of these animals. Present the information in an entertaining way to classmates who think there is nothing more to learn about kangaroos or Tasmanian devils.

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