

# Koala

Koalas are native to Australia. People still incorrectly refer to koalas as 'koala bears'. They are actually marsupials and are closely related to the wombat and kangaroo.

Koalas have sharp claws which they use to help them climb trees. They have five digits on each front paw, with two of them acting like thumbs. This helps them to hold firmly onto the branches and to grip their food. Their back paws are used as grooming paws.

A baby koala is called a 'joey'. Joeys live in their mother's pouch for around six months and will remain with them for another six months or so afterwards.

An adult koala can eat about half a kilogram to one kilogram of leaves each night.

Koalas are mostly nocturnal which means they are awake at night and asleep during the day.

Koalas sleep a lot during the day because they require a lot of energy to digest the toxic, low-nutrition diet that they eat. Sleeping is the best way to conserve their energy.



## Did You Know...?

Koalas sleep for around 18-20 hours a day.



## Art hub – how to draw a koala:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UneyNchGml>

## Koala facts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzU-DjUMzsg>