

Presenter: Oh there there, that's a good little joey. Here, have some more!

Cowy: What are you doing?

Presenter: I was just feeding this joey, Cowy!

Elliot: Who is Joey?

Presenter: Well Elliot, this Joey is not a person. A joey is another name for a baby kangaroo.

LK Characters: ohhhhhhh a baby kangaroo!

Presenter: Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids - where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. Join us today as we feed the joeys at the wildlife park and meet some other marsupial mammals!

Cowy: Why are you feeding it with a bottle?

Presenter: Well Cowy, I'm giving it a special milk formula. This Joey was rescued by our wonderful friends here at the wildlife park, so it needs special care.

Lisa: What do they normally eat?

Presenter: In the wild, baby joeys drink milk from their mother, and when they get a little older, they eat grass and leaves.

Cowy: Awww! It's so cute!

Elliot: Look, there's a grown-up kangaroo bouncing around!

Presenter: Yes! And you can tell it's a mommy kangaroo because she has her little joey in her pouch!

LK Characters: Pouch???

Presenter: That's right, a pouch! Joeys stay in their mother's pouch for about 6 months after they are born!

Elliot: Look, I have my pouch here! It doesn't have a Joey, but it has pencils, crayons, and an eraser!

Presenter: A kangaroo's pouch is different from a pouch for school supplies, Elliot. A kangaroo's pouch is part of its body. It's like a large pocket attached to the kangaroo's tummy. Um..Cowy, why are you rubbing your tummy?

Cowy: I'm looking for my pouch, of course!

LK Characters: Good idea!

Lisa: I can't find mine!

Elliot: Me neither!

Cowy: Nor me!

Billy: Chirp, chirp!

Presenter: That's because not all animals have pouches. In fact, only animals of a very specific kind have pouches. This kind of animal is called a **marsupial**!

Billy: Chirp, chirp!

Presenter: That's right, Billy, a kangaroo is a marsupial because mother kangaroos have pouches!

Elliot: So there are more soupy eels?

Presenter: You almost said it right, Elliot! Let's practice one more time and say "marsupial" on the count of three. One, two, three:

LK Characters: Marsupial!

Presenter: Great job! Now, to answer your question, Elliot, yes, there are more marsupials! In fact, that's why we're at the wildlife park today, to learn more about marsupials!

LK Characters: Let's go!

Presenter: Look at this one! It's gray and furry. It loves to climb trees, loves to sleep, and eats eucalyptus leaves. Can you guess what animal this is?

Billy: Chirp, chirp!

Presenter: Yes, it's a koala! Koalas live in Australia, like the kangaroo! You might hear some people call them koala bears, but they're not bears at all. They're marsupials!

Cowy: So they have pouches too!

Presenter: Yes! Another interesting fact about marsupials is that they are all mammals, meaning that they have fur, they give birth to live babies, not eggs, and the mothers feed their babies milk.

Elliot: I think I know that word!. Didn't we talk about mammals before?

Cowy: Yes, I remember!

Presenter: That's right! We talked about mammals back in January! Lingokids Listeners, if you want to learn more about mammals, have a listen to our Storytime: World of Wonders episode after this!

Elliot: Fun!

Cowy: Look! What's that one?

Lisa: Hehe! It looks like a giant hamster!

Presenter: Ah, that one's called a wombat! It also lives in Australia. As you can see, Australia is home to many marsupials. Let's go meet some marsupials from a different **geographic location**, or another place in the world!

Elliot: Great idea!

LK Characters: Let's go!

Presenter: This part of the wildlife park has animals from America, which includes, South, Central, and North America.

Lisa: Look! I've seen that one before!

Cowy: It loves to hang from branches with its tail!

Elliot: And it's gray with a white face!

Presenter: Do you know what it is called?

Billy: Chirp, chirp!

Presenter: Yes, it's an opossum! The opossum is found in South America, Central, America, Mexico, the US, and even Canada! In fact, it's the only marsupial found in North America.

Cowy: What's that one?

Elliot: It looks like the opossum!

Lisa: But it's tiny!

Presenter: That one is called a sugar glider! It's actually a kind of possum, and it's a marsupial as well! As you can see, marsupials can come in all shapes and sizes!

LK Characters: Wow!!!

Presenter: There are so many more marsupials! Our planet has so much **animal diversity!**

Elliot: Isn't that where older people go to study?

Presenter: That's a university, Elliot. Animal diversity is the incredibly wide range of different animals that live on planet Earth. There are so many different kinds!

LK Characters: Amazing!

Presenter: Wildlife parks like this one that protect and rescue animals are great because they help protect that diversity and they also teach people about animals and how to protect them and their natural environments that they live in.

Lisa: This was fun!

Presenter: We'll have to come back again!

LK Characters! Yeah!

Presenter: We had a great time, Lingokids listeners! Thank you for your company and I hope you enjoyed it too! In our next episode we will continue playlearning together.

If you are ready for interactive playlearning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages 2 and older learn and develop important skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of Playlearning™. See you in our next episode

