



## AUSTRALIAN THREATENED SPECIES



**KOALA**

**enviro**  **print**  
a conservation initiative of Planet Press

# Did You Know?

## KOALA

*Phascolarctos cinereus*

- ▶▶ Koalas are not bears. Koalas are marsupials which means that their young are born immature and develop in the safety of their mother's pouch.
- ▶▶ Koalas often sleep for up to 18-20 hours each day. Most of their time is spent sleeping to conserve energy because it requires a lot of energy to digest their fibrous, low-nutrition diet of eucalypt gum leaves, which are toxic to most animals.
- ▶▶ Each Koala's home is made up of several trees called 'home trees'. They visit these same trees regularly and remain within their own territory except for breeding purposes.
- ▶▶ Koala babies are called joeys. When born, a joey is about 2cm long, blind and furless. Amazingly, it can crawl to it's mother's pouch where it drinks only milk for about 6 to 7 months till developed. Then the joey will eat 'pap' from it's mother to prepare it's body to digest the gum leaves of an adult Koala diet.
- ▶▶ Koalas need trees to survive. Sadly, 80% of Australia's Koala habitat has already been lost due to land clearing and bush fire.

To find out more about Australia's Koala and how you can help to save them contact:



**Australian  
Koala Foundation**

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**[www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)**

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