

Name _____



Koalas: Furry Friends of the Forest

Koalas are fascinating animals that live in Australia. These furry marsupials are often called "koala bears," but they are not bears at all! Koalas have soft, thick fur that is usually gray with white patches on their chest and inside their ears. Their fur helps keep them warm and protects them from the rain.

Koalas are medium-sized animals. They usually measure about 2 to 3 feet long from head to tail and weigh between 9 to 30 pounds, depending on their age and gender. Male koalas are generally larger than female koalas. Despite their size, koalas spend most of their time in trees, using their strong limbs to climb and hold onto branches.

One of the koala's unique features is its large, round nose. The nose is black, leathery, and has a strong sense of smell, which helps koalas find the best eucalyptus leaves to eat. Koalas also have two thumbs on each hand, giving them a better grip on branches and leaves. Their sharp claws and rough paw pads make them excellent climbers.

Another interesting feature of koalas is their pouch. Like other marsupials, female koalas have a pouch where their babies, called joeys, stay safe and warm after birth. Joeys are born tiny and hairless, and they stay in the pouch for about six months while they grow.

Koalas are special animals with unique features that help them survive in the wild. Their fur, climbing skills, and pouches make them one of Australia's most beloved creatures.