

Name _____



What Does a Kangaroo Eat?

Kangaroos are fascinating animals native to Australia. They have a unique diet that makes them well-suited for life in the wild. Kangaroos are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. They do not eat meat or hunt other animals for food.

The main food sources for kangaroos are grasses, leaves, flowers, and shoots. They prefer fresh, green plants but can also eat dry grass when food is scarce. Kangaroos have sharp front teeth that help them bite off grass easily, while their flat back teeth are perfect for grinding the food to make it easier to digest.

Kangaroos are grazers, which means they spend a lot of time eating throughout the day, much like cows or sheep. They often feed in the early morning or late afternoon when it is cooler, as the hot Australian sun can make it difficult to find food during midday.

A kangaroo's digestive system is specially designed to break down plant material. They have a chambered stomach similar to cows, where food is partially digested before being brought back up to be chewed again. This process, called cud chewing, helps kangaroos get the most nutrients from their plant-based diet.

Since kangaroos get most of their water from the plants they eat, they can survive in dry areas with limited water sources. This ability makes them well adapted to the Australian outback, where rainfall can be scarce.