

Name _____



How Does a Kangaroo Move?

Kangaroos have a unique and fascinating way of moving. Unlike many animals that walk or run, kangaroos hop to get around. They are known for their powerful hind legs, which help them move quickly and efficiently across the Australian landscape.

Kangaroos cannot fly, climb, or swim very well. Their bodies are built specifically for hopping on land. When a kangaroo hops, its strong hind legs push off the ground, while its long tail helps balance its body. The tail acts like a counterweight, keeping the kangaroo steady and upright as it moves forward.

A kangaroo's hop is not just fast but also energy-efficient. Each hop allows the kangaroo to cover a lot of ground with little effort. Some kangaroos can leap up to 25 feet in a single hop and reach speeds of around 40 miles per hour! This impressive speed helps them escape predators and travel long distances in search of food and water.

Kangaroos also have a special way of moving when they are not hopping. When feeding or moving slowly, kangaroos use their front legs and tail in a movement called "crawl-walking." The tail supports the kangaroo's weight while the front legs move forward, making the kangaroo appear as if it is crawling.

The kangaroo's movement style is essential for life in the Australian outback. Hopping allows them to cover vast areas while conserving energy. Their unique movement, powerful legs, and balancing tail make them one of the most remarkable animals in the world.