

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Outcome:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through discussion, matching, sequencing, acting, drawing, cooking, and phonics.

Overview:

Students will read and explore a folktale from Australia while utilizing interdisciplinary connections in language arts, dramatic arts, art, and math.

Materials:

Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*
Crayons or markers
Scissors
Glue sticks
Popsicle sticks
Pencils
1 (7-inch) white paper plate per student
Unlined paper

Cooking Materials:

Paper plates
Napkins
Spoons

Ingredients:

1 small pita pocket per student
Assorted cut fruits such as apples, bananas, peaches, and pears

Optional:

Computer with Internet access
Forest, Heather. *The Little Red Hen*. Little Rock: August House, 2006.

Assessment Tools:

“Character Puppets” worksheet
“Shortest to Tallest” worksheet
“Matching Pictures” worksheet
“Beginning Sounds” worksheet
“Koala Parts” worksheet
“Patterns” worksheet

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduction:

Directions:

Teacher:

- Tells students they will be talking about friendship.
- Asks students to tell *how* to be a good friend.
- Asks students what one should *not* do, if one wants to be a good friend.
- Encourages students to talk about their friends and experiences with friendship.

Teacher Reads the Story:

Materials:

Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*

Directions:

Teacher:

- Tells students they will be listening to a folktale about two Australian animals—a koala and a tree kangaroo. Teacher tells students to listen carefully so that they can tell how friendship is important in this story.
- Reads the story and pauses to check comprehension as needed.

Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:

- Who are the characters in this story?
- What is this story about?
- Where does this story take place?
- How did Koala and Tree Kangaroo feel about each other at the beginning of the story?
- Why were the streams dried up?
- Why were Koala and Tree Kangaroo worried?
- Who had the idea to find water?
- What idea did Tree Kangaroo have?
- Who started digging in the streambed?
- Why didn't Koala help Tree Kangaroo dig for water?
- How did Tree Kangaroo feel when Koala did not help him dig?
- What did Koala do when Tree Kangaroo found water?
- Why did Tree Kangaroo pull Koala's tail?
- What happened when Tree Kangaroo pulled Koala's tail?
- Were Tree Kangaroo and Koala friends at the end of the story? Why or why not?

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Language Arts:

• **Story Retell with Character Puppets**

Materials:

Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*

“Character Puppets” worksheet

Crayons or markers

Scissors

Glue sticks

Popsicle sticks

Directions:

Students:

1. Color in Koala and Tree Kangaroo.
2. Cut out Koala and Tree Kangaroo on the dotted lines.
3. Glue each character to a Popsicle stick.
4. Retell the story using the puppets while teacher shows students the story illustrations.

• **Shortest to Tallest**

Materials:

“Shortest to Tallest” worksheet

Scissors

Crayons or markers

Glue sticks

Directions:

Students:

1. Color in the pictures of the koalas.
2. Cut out each picture on the dotted lines.
3. Arrange the pictures from shortest to tallest.
4. Glue the pictures on the paper in order from shortest to tallest.

• **Matching Pictures**

Materials:

“Matching Pictures” worksheet

Crayons or markers

Directions:

1. Look at the pictures.
2. Name each picture.
3. Draw a line to match the pictures that are the same.

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Phonics:

• **Beginning Sounds**

Materials:

“Beginning Sounds” worksheet

Pencils

Directions:

1. Name each picture.
2. Trace the letter that creates the beginning sound of each word.
3. Name the letters.

Drama:

• **Acting**

Directions:

- Teacher reads the dialogue and sentences below.
- Students act out each situation with appropriate body language, intonation, and facial expressions:
 1. “I have an idea,” said Tree Kangaroo.
 2. Koala cried, “Let’s try that! I can’t wait to taste the cool water.”
 3. Koala whined, “I’m tired and thirsty. You start digging while I rest in this tree. As soon as I get my strength back, I’ll dig while you rest.”
 4. Tree Kangaroo began to dig. It was hard work.
 5. Tree Kangaroo looked up and saw Koala was sound asleep.
 6. When Koala woke up, Tree Kangaroo called out, “Now it’s your turn. You must do your part.”
 7. Koala began to climb down from the tree. But then he cried, “Ouch! I just got a thorn in my foot. You keep digging while I get it out.”
 8. “Koala!” yelled Tree Kangaroo. “I am worn out. I need a break.”
 9. Koala began to climb down. But this time he called out, “I’m dizzy from lack of water. I must rest a little longer.”
 10. Tree Kangaroo was getting mad, but he kept on digging.
 11. Tree Kangaroo shouted, “Koala it worked!”
 12. Koala jumped down and rushed to the hole. He pushed Tree Kangaroo out of his way. Koala stuck his head into the water and began to gulp it down.
 13. Tree Kangaroo was furious. He called out, “Save some for me!”
 14. Koala kept on drinking and drinking and drinking.
 15. Tree Kangaroo grabbed Koala’s tail. He yanked and yanked.

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Art:

• **Paper Plate Koalas**

Materials:

“Koala Parts” worksheet

Scissors

1 (7-inch) white paper plate per student

Glue sticks

Crayons or markers

Directions:

Students:

1. Color the plate and koala parts gray.
2. Draw the koala’s eyes, nose, mouth, and other features on the appropriate parts.
3. Glue the koala parts on the plate as shown in the finished koala picture on the worksheet.

• **Drawing**

Materials:

Crayons or markers

Unlined paper

Directions:

Students:

1. Draw their favorite parts of the story.
2. Show their pictures to the class and tell about their favorite parts of the story.

Cooking:

• **Tree Kangaroo Pockets**

Cooking materials:

Paper plates

Napkins

Spoons

Ingredients:

1 small pita pocket per student

Assorted cut fruits such as apples, bananas, peaches, and pears

Directions:

1. Teacher asks students what the pita pockets and tree kangaroos have in common. (A pocket)
2. Teacher tells students that tree kangaroos prefer a vegetarian diet that includes fruit.
3. Students fill the pita pockets with fruit.
4. Students enjoy eating the tree kangaroo pockets snack.

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Extensions:

• **Kangaroo Races**

Directions:

Teacher:

- Tells students that tree kangaroos are clumsy on the ground, but move easily in the trees by hopping and leaping. Tree kangaroos can move their legs independently, but their relative, the kangaroo, can only hop moving both back legs together.
- Asks students to show how kangaroos move by hopping.
- Divides the class into two or more groups and organizes kangaroo hopping races.

○ **Technology Connection**

Materials:

Computer with Internet access

Directions:

- Teacher helps students access www.storycove.com.
- Students view the animation for *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail* narrated by the authors.
- Students think about how the storytellers use their voices to convey emotions throughout the story.
- Students explore the animations and activities for other stories on www.storycove.com.

• **Compare and Contrast**

Materials:

Book, *The Little Red Hen*

Directions:

Teacher:

- Reads *The Little Red Hen* by Heather Forest.
- And students compare and contrast the themes of laziness and hard work in this story and *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*.

• **Patterns**

Materials:

“Patterns” worksheet

Scissors

Crayons or markers

Directions:

Students:

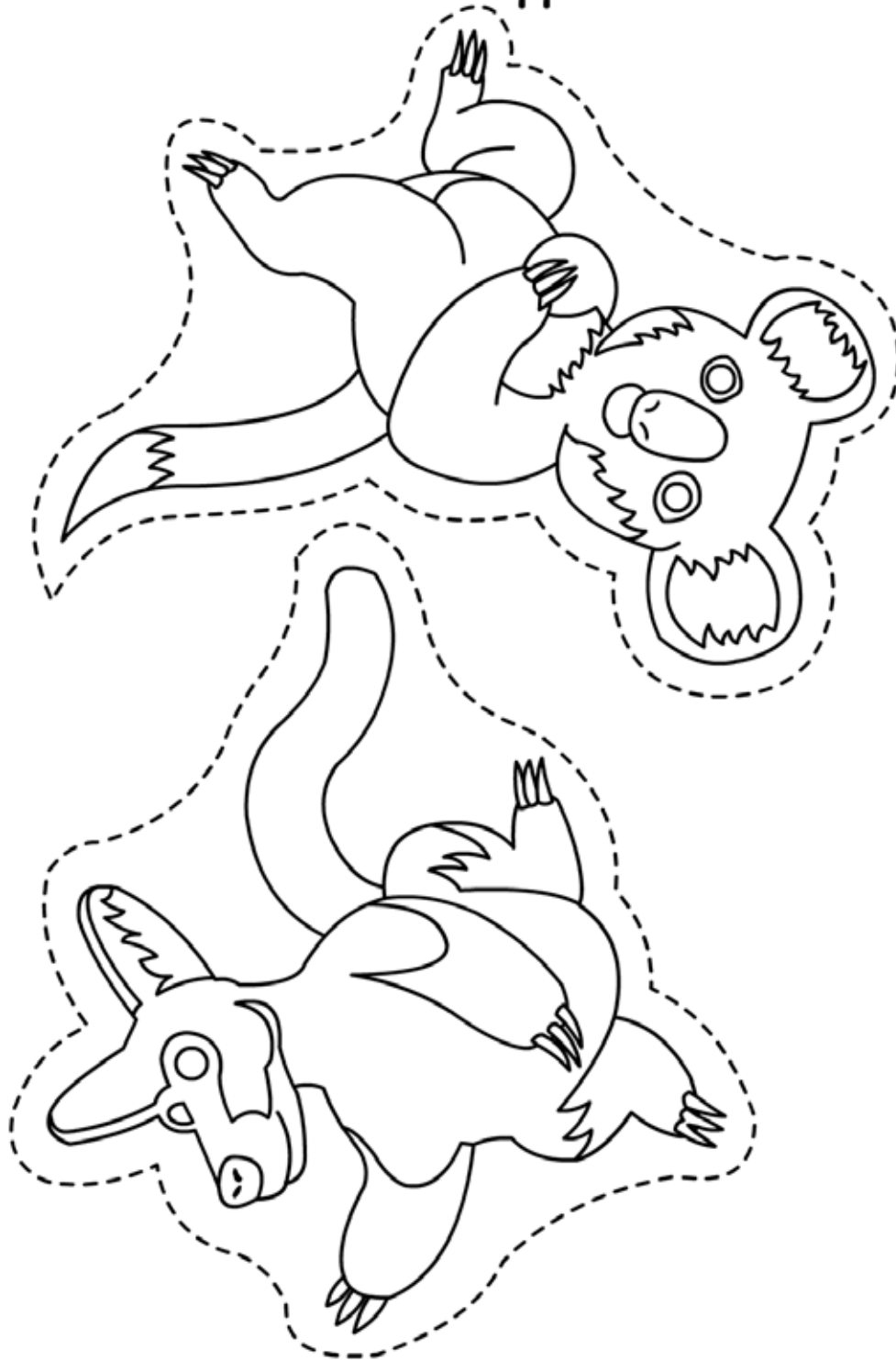
- Cut out the squares on the “Patterns” worksheet containing Koala and Tree Kangaroo.
- Arrange the squares to create and repeat patterns.
- Create a pattern and have a partner finish the pattern.

WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Character Puppets

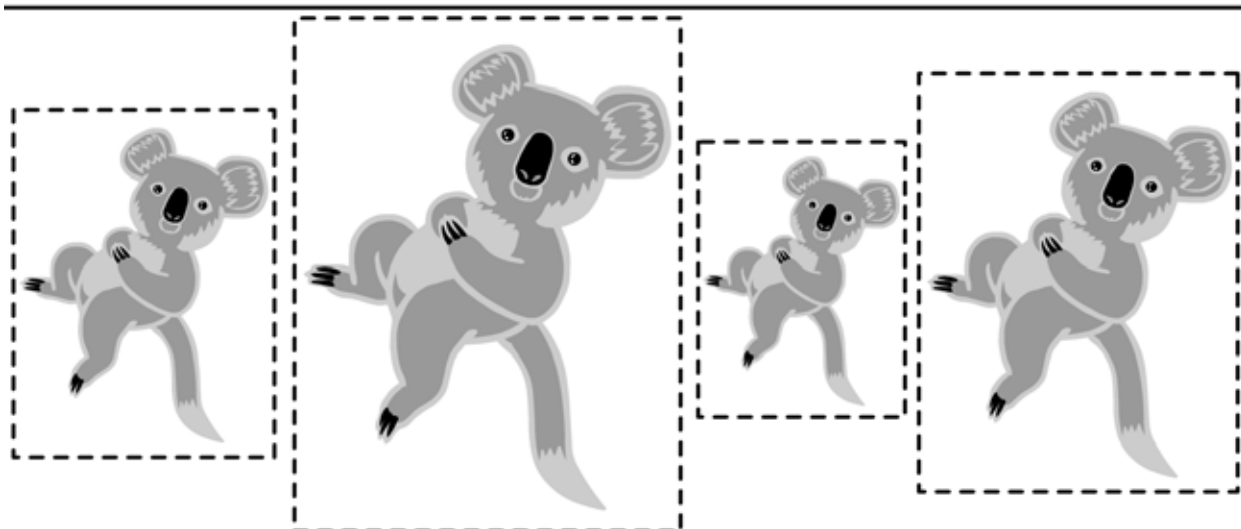


WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Shortest to Tallest

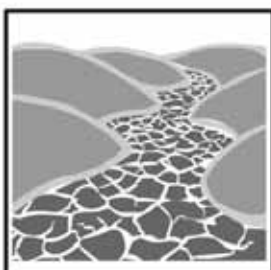
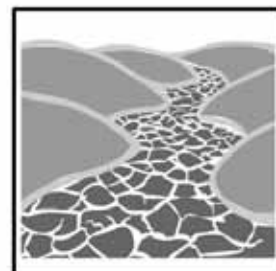
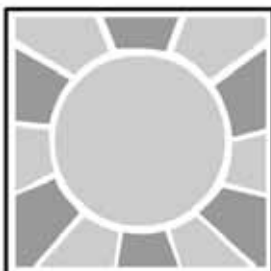
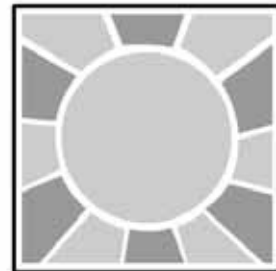


WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Matching Pictures



WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

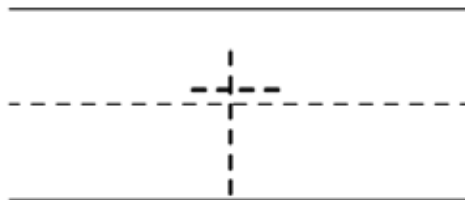
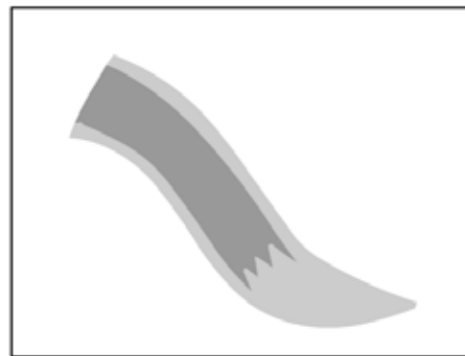
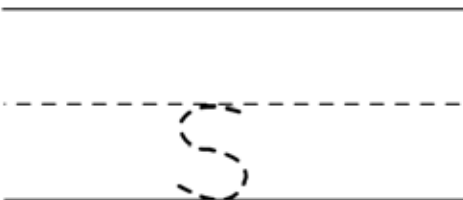
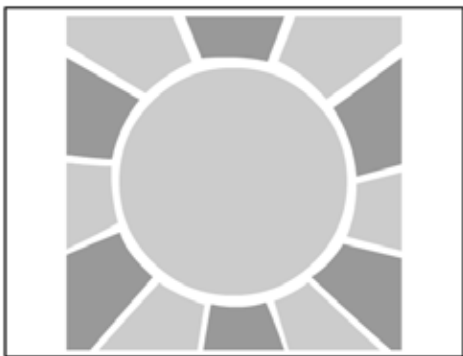
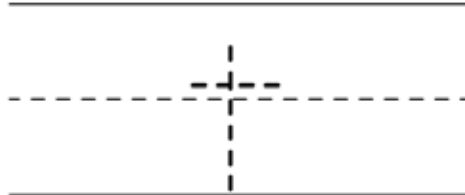
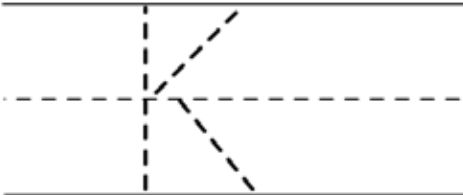
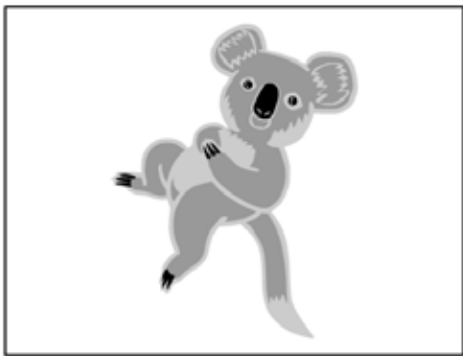
Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Beginning Sounds

Directions:

1. Name each picture.
2. Trace the letter that creates the beginning sound of each word.
3. Name the letters.

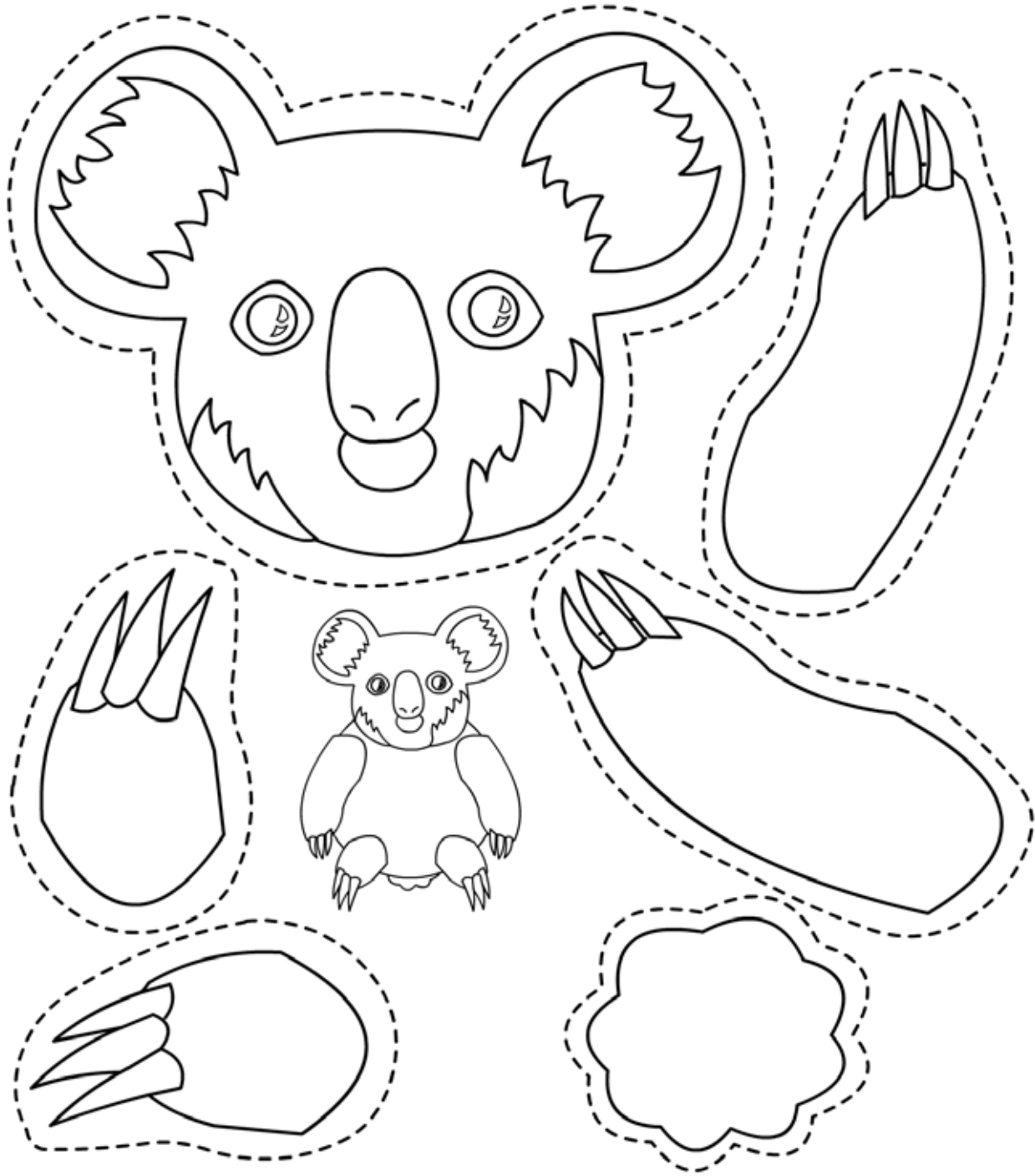


WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Koala Parts



WHY KOALA HAS A STUMPY TAIL

Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Patterns

