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Pre-
reader

Climb, Koala!



Jennifer Szymanski



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Washington, D.C.

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Dear Parents,

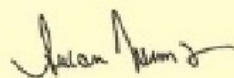
Children are naturally curious about the world around them, and curiosity is a powerful motivation for reading—and for success in school. Studies show that by understanding relationships among words, children quickly acquire new and interesting vocabulary. And the more they are able to talk about the world around them, the more they want to learn!

As you read with your child, be sure to point out the vocabulary tree. Discuss the categories of words and how they relate to one another. Then, explore the text together. Encourage your child to point out each of the vocabulary words as they appear in the text. You'll be surprised how fast your early reader identifies content-rich vocabulary.

To sustain children's excitement about reading, we have created a special program called **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS SUPER READERS**. As kids read each National Geographic Kids Reader, they cross off its picture on a free National Geographic Kids Super Readers poster that parents can download from kids.nationalgeographic.com/superreaders. Throughout the process, kids and parents go to the website and download specially designated prizes that reward their effort. Kids can have even more reading fun online, with lively book-related activities, quizzes and games, fascinating excerpts, and sneak previews of upcoming books.

The National Geographic Kids Super Readers program appeals to kids' love of accomplishment while providing them with incentives to keep reading. When the reading experience is fun, children learn more and achieve more. What could be better than that?

Sincerely,



Susan B. Neuman
Professor of Language and Literacy
New York University

Pre-
reader

Climb, Koala!



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Vocabulary Tree

ANIMALS

KOALAS

WHAT THEY HAVE

claws
fur
pouch

WHAT THEY DO

climb
sleep
wake up
eat
ride



2



Climb, koala!

3

Koalas can climb high.



They spend a lot of time in trees.





6

Koalas have long, sharp claws.



7

The claws help them climb.

Koalas can sleep in trees, too.



8



Koalas can sleep for up to 18 hours a day!



They sleep almost all day.

9



When a koala wakes up,



it's time to eat!



Koalas need to eat a lot of leaves.



12



Sometimes they save them in a pouch in their cheeks.

13

Koalas eat so many leaves,
their fur smells like the leaves.




Their fur is warm. It keeps
them dry in the rain.

Baby koalas aren't born
with fur.




But their mom has a pouch.
It keeps them safe.





A baby koala is called a joey.



The baby lives in its mom's pouch.

18

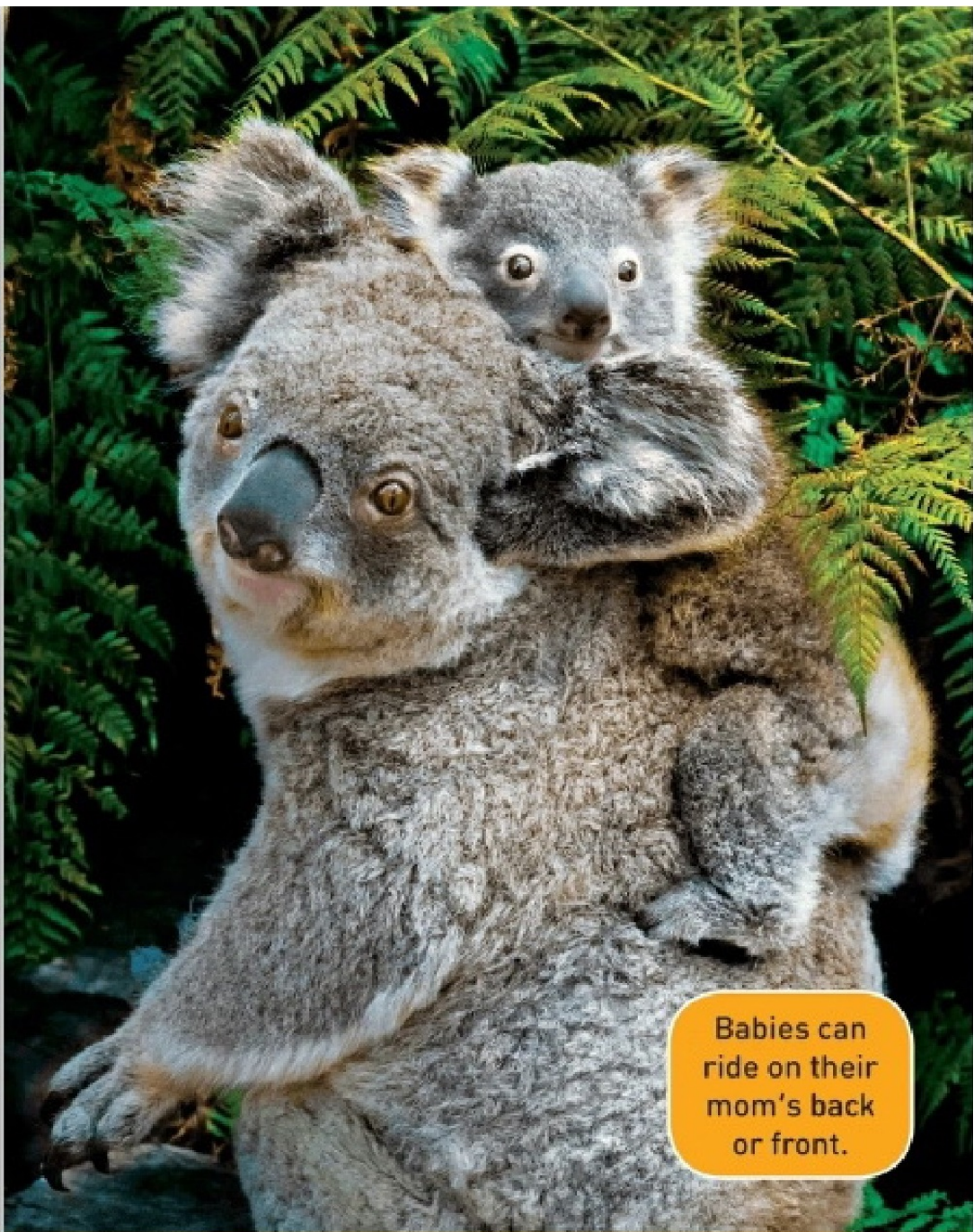


It lives there for about six months.



19

Then the baby climbs out.



Babies can ride on their mom's back or front.

It rides with its mom.



Baby koalas climb with their moms, too. Climb, koala!



YOUR TURN!

Koalas and kids do some of the same things. What are these kids doing? Match the picture to the word.

EAT



SLEEP



RIDE



CLIMB

