



## ADDITIONAL LESSONS / CRAFTS / ACTIVITIES

### CRAFT

#### Aboriginal Kangaroo (PRINTABLE INCLUDED)

BEFORE THE CRAFT: Read about the kangaroo:

The world's largest marsupials, kangaroos, live in Australia. "Macropodidae" is their family name, and that mouthful-word means "big feet." In addition to oversized feet, kangaroos have large, thick tails, strong leg muscles, and big tendons connecting the tail to the hipbones. All of these features combine to make one amazing jumper.

In fact, red kangaroos are the fastest jumping mammals on earth, with hops clocking in at 30 miles or more per hour. A male red kangaroo in a hurry can jump 10 feet high and stay airborne for 39 feet! Kangaroo cruising speed is about 20 miles per hour. Male red kangaroos are sometimes called "red flyers," while female red kangaroos, which are smaller and actually a bluish-gray color, are called "blue flyers."

Red kangaroos like open grasslands, while gray kangaroos (there are Eastern and Western varieties) prefer more woods. Kangaroos live in small or large groups. A large group of kangaroos, which might number a hundred or more, is called a "mob."

A baby kangaroo (a "joey") is very tiny at birth— the size of a bean. It develops inside its mother's special pouch. When it is old enough to hop in and out, the mother might even have a second tiny baby, producing two different kinds of milk to feed her young.

Friendly interactions between kangaroos include nose touching, sniffing, and mutual grooming. Confrontations between kangaroos can be serious, but young kangaroos (or mothers with their young) also "play-fight" without hurting each other.

aboriginal style, indigenous to Australia.



**MATERIALS:** Lavender craft paper, variety of cool color paints, unsharpened pencil dipped in paint, Aboriginal Kangaroo Printable.

**STEP ONE:** Trace the template in the center of your paper.

**STEP TWO:** Using the end of an unsharpened pencil, begin to dot around the kangaroo template.

**STEP THREE:** Continue this dotting method, creating a larger and larger pattern around the kangaroo. If you keep the pattern neat, it will resemble the aboriginal style, indigenous to Australia.

