



PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn how kangaroos use their adapted body parts in order to hop far distances

GRADES

4th to 6th

MATERIALS

- Chalks
- Measuring Tapes
- Clipboards
- Pencils

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Ensure student participation
- Grade worksheet based on completeness & accuracy

How Far Can You Hop?

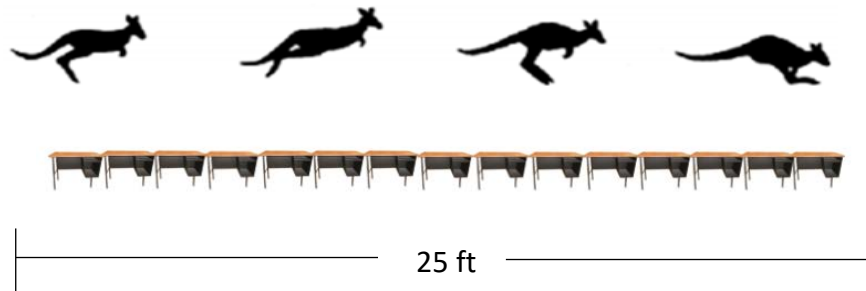
Practice your students' critical thinking skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo kangaroos. The kangaroo sure loves to hop around the area, but have you wondered how they're able to hop long distance? The kangaroos use body adaptations such as enlarged hind feet and tail to help them hop. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- How does a kangaroo travel?
- Can you move like a kangaroo?
- How fast do you think they can hop?
- How far can a kangaroo go in a single hop?

Bring your class outside and divide the class into five smaller groups. You will mark multiple lines with chalk, where groups will jump from the start line. Please encourage your students to jump as far they can in standing position. They can not run and hop from the line; they must hop like a kangaroo standing on the line. Students are welcome to have three tries to hop as far they can if they'd like. Have students mark their group member's landing with their names and continue until all students participated. Once students are finished hopping, have them use the measuring tape to measure their hopping distance in feet and record on their worksheet. Have students fill out the worksheet to their best ability.

How Are They Able to Hop So Far?

Their long, powerful legs allow them to cover about 25 feet in a single hop. That means they can hop over 15 desks in your classroom! The tendons found in their legs perform like a spring, which helps the kangaroo launch forward at high speed with little effort. When their huge feet touch the ground, the energy stored in their legs is released to propel for the next jump, like a pogo stick. They hop gracefully by tucking their forepaws in, and their tail is held out behind for balance as they leap forward on their hind legs. Overall, a hopping kangaroo uses less energy than a running horse.



Name: _____



Kangaroo's Amazing Distance



1. How far did you jump?
2. Who jumped the farthest in your group? How far did he/she jump?
3. How far can a kangaroo hop?
4. What's the difference between the kangaroo's hop and your hop?
5. If you were allowed to triple your distance, how far would you have jumped? Is it farther than a kangaroo?
6. What do you think that allows kangaroos to hop far distances?

