



# ANIMALS



- The dry, desert-like plains of the Australian outback cover more than two-thirds of the continent. Much of the region receives less than 250 mm of rainfall a year. Although the rains may come at any time of the year, there are often long periods of drought, which make it difficult for animals to survive.
- Many of the animals avoid the heat of the day by staying in their burrows, since it is cooler and damper underground. Some small animals sleep underground right through the hottest summer months. This is called aestivation. Many outback animals can survive with little or no water. Their bodies are adapted to store water from their food and to lose very little water in their urine. A number of animals have long back leas to help them more rapidly and find what little food is available.
- There are many animals and birds in Australia:
  - **Koala** (length: 80 cm);
  - **Long jumper. Red kangaroo** (height: 2m; tail: 1m);
  - **Wild dog. Dingo** (height at shoulder: 50 cm; length: up to 90 cm);
  - **High-speed runner emu:** (height: 2m);
  - **Huge burrow** (height at shoulder: 45cm);
  - **Huge lizard** (length including tail: up to 2,4 m);
  - **Spiny coat** (length: 50 cm; spines: 6 cm);
  - **Silky killer** (length: 3 cm);
  - **Numbat** (body length: up to 30 cm; tail: up to 20 cm);
  - **Raggiana's bird of paradise** (body length: up to 95 cm; tail feathers: 50 cm) and many others.

