



# AMAZING ANIMALS

1 Tick (✓) the animals that you think are from Australia.



zebra



tiger



kookaburra



wombat



elephant



platypus



panda



llama



giraffe

2 Now read about some amazing animals from Australia and check your answers to Exercise 1.

## The Kookaburra

The kookaburra is the world's biggest kingfisher. Kingfishers are a type of bird that lives near water. Kingfishers have got long beaks. They use their beaks to catch small fish. But although the kookaburra belongs to the kingfisher family, it eats small animals and not fish! The kookaburra is about 45 centimetres long and weighs about half a kilogram. It's got a big head and a very long beak. The kookaburra has a strange voice. It sounds like a person laughing! Sometimes it's called the Laughing Kookaburra.

## The Platypus

The platypus is a funny animal. It's got a flat beak and webbed feet, like a duck, and a flat tail. The platypus is a marsupial. Marsupials are animals with pouches to carry their babies around in, like the kangaroo and the koala. But unlike other marsupials, the platypus lays eggs like a bird. The platypus uses its beak to look for food at the bottom of rivers. It uses its flat tail and webbed feet to swim underwater. It closes its eyes, ears and nose when it swims underwater and its beak "tells" the platypus where it is. A platypus can swim underwater for 3 minutes!

## The Wombat

Another strange marsupial from Australia is the wombat. It looks like a baby bear with dark brown fur and a large head. It has got short legs. It is about 1 metre long and weighs about 26 kilograms. The wombat usually walks slowly, but it can also run very fast. It lives underground in burrows. The closest relative to the wombat is the koala!

3 Write T (true) or F (false) for the following sentences. Correct the false sentences.

- ..... 1 The kookaburra talks like a person.
- ..... 2 The kookaburra eats fish, like other kingfishers.
- ..... 3 The platypus looks for food underwater.
- ..... 4 The wombat and the koala belong to the same family.
- ..... 5 The wombat can move fast.

## Answers

### AMAZING ANIMALS

1 kookaburra, platypus, wombat

- 3
- 1 F
  - 2 F
  - 3 T
  - 4 T
  - 5 T