

# My Journey Home Family Connection

This week your child is reading an informational text about the work of biologists to study the tree kangaroo.

DAY  
1

**Animal Facts** Talk with your child about your favorite animals and then choose one to research. Using the Internet or animal books, find as many facts about your animal as possible. Try to find little-known information such as the following: average body temperature, number of teeth, sleeping habits.

DAY  
2

**Zoo Trip** In this week's selection, *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo*, the lead biologist was inspired to study this endangered animal after visiting a zoo. Take a trip to a local zoo with your child and see what endangered animals live there, protected in environments similar to their natural ones.

**Tip!**

If a trip to a zoo is not possible, look through magazines or books to see what endangered animals you can find.

DAY  
3

**Vocabulary on the Go** This week's selection focuses on the research and protection of endangered animals. Talk with your child about why it is important to protect animals that may be in danger of extinction. Try to use some of the following vocabulary words:

*procedure presence outfitted transferred enthusiastic*

**Teamwork** This activity provides an opportunity for you and your child to work together to make a difference in your home or community.

- Have your child tell how the biologists worked together to capture, study, and release the tree kangaroos.
- Talk with your child about the importance of teamwork. Share with your child a time when you worked as part of a team. Then ask your child to tell about his or her experience working with other people at school or on a team to accomplish something.
- Identify a task to complete or a service to provide that would better the environment around you.
- Work as a team with your child to complete the task you chose. Ask your child to consider what to do if members of a group do not agree with something. Discuss with your child the importance of compromise.



**Save Me!** With your child, make a poster to spread the word about the need to save an endangered animal. Talk with your child to create a slogan and include colorful pictures or drawings of the animal if possible. Search the Internet for websites about endangered animals.



### Book Links

- *Eyewitness: Endangered Animals*, by Ben Hoare
- *My Life with the Chimpanzees*, by Jane Goodall **CHALLENGE**



**Internet Challenge** Go to the library or search the Internet to find out more about the work biologists do.

Quest for the Tree  
Kangaroo  
Home Letter

# Home Letter

## Dear Family,

This week we'll begin by reading the informational text **Quest for the Tree Kangaroo**, a story about a scientist's journey to find and research a rare creature. We'll find out answers to the question "Why is it important to research and protect endangered animals?" We'll also read the Australian Aboriginal myth **Why Koala Has No Tail**.

### This week's...

**Target Vocabulary:** dwarfed, presence, procedure, outfitted, transferred, calculate, snug perch, enthusiastic, beaming

**Vocabulary Strategy:** Synonyms and antonyms

**Comprehension Skill:** Cause and effect—tell how events are related and how one event causes another (organizational pattern)

**Comprehension Strategy:** Question—ask questions about a selection before you read, as you read, and after you read

**Writing Focus:** Informative writing—procedural composition

## Activities to Do Together

### Vocabulary

Review this week's **Target Vocabulary** with your child. Together, use a thesaurus to see how many synonyms and antonyms you can find for the words.

### Animal Rescue

Ask your child whether he or she would like to be a person who rescues endangered animals. Why or why not? Together, go online and research ways to help endangered animals.

### How Helping Helps

Talk to your child about endangered animals and different causes, such as over fishing or loss of habitat. Then have your child write a paragraph about one of the endangered animals and the causes of its endangerment.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.

## Quest For The Tree Kangaroo

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. glory     | 22. forfeit   |
| 2. aware     | 23. orchestra |
| 3. carton    | 24. rarity    |
| 4. adore     | 25. hoard     |
| 5. aboard    |               |
| 6. dairy     |               |
| 7. ordeal    |               |
| 8. pardon    |               |
| 9. warn      |               |
| 10. vary     |               |
| 11. barely   |               |
| 12. torch    |               |
| 13. barge    |               |
| 14. soar     |               |
| 15. beware   |               |
| 16. absorb   |               |
| 17. armor    |               |
| 18. stairway |               |
| 19. perform  |               |
| 20. former   |               |
| 21. discard  |               |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Quest for the Tree  
Kangaroo**

Vocabulary Word Cards

**dwarfed**

**calculate**

**presence**

**snug**

**procedure**

**perch**

**outfitted**

**enthusiastic**

**transferred**

**beaming**

**The Lost World of Papua  
New Guinea**  
Target Vocabulary

# Target Vocabulary

Fill in the Flow Chart with sentences using the remaining Target Vocabulary words. Your sentences should create a story about exploring an island. The first events in the story are done for you.

## Vocabulary

dwarfed	transferred	perch
presence	calculate	enthusiastic
procedure	snug	beaming
outfitted		

The scientist was enthusiastic about exploring the island.

She was outfitted with tools to help her find her way and record information.

# Synonyms and Antonyms

**Quest for the Tree  
Kangaroo**Vocabulary Strategies:  
Synonyms and Antonyms

Read the thesaurus entries below. Then use the information in the box to fill in the blank to complete each sentence.

**mortal** (*adj.*) Synonym: deadly. Antonym: life-giving.

**intense** (*adj.*) Synonyms: strong, powerful. Antonym: weak.

**youth** (*n.*) Synonyms: young person, child. Antonyms: grown-up, adult.

1. A synonym for *youth* is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. An antonym for *mortal* is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Another word for *strong* is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Someone who is not a *child* is an \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An antonym for *weak* is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A word with a similar meaning to *deadly* is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Quest for the Tree Kangaroo

**Read the words in the Word Bank. Then write one or two sentences for each word using a synonym and an antonym for the word. You may use a dictionary to help you.**

deadly      adolescent      aggressive      aquatic

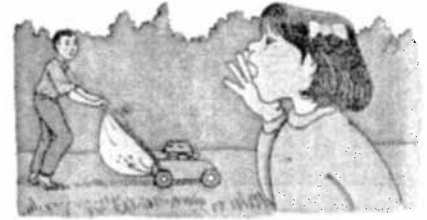
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



**Quest for the Tree Kangaroo**

 Vocabulary Strategies:  
 Synonyms and Antonyms

# Synonyms and Antonyms



Match each word to its synonym, or a word that means nearly the same.

**Column 1**
**Column 2**
**A.** brave

1. wealthy

**B.** rich

2. nice

**C.** kind

3. fearless

Match each word to its antonym, or opposite.

**Column 1**
**Column 2**
**A.** juvenile

1. different

**B.** shout

2. adult

**C.** identical

3. whisper