MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

RED-NECKED WALLABY

Notamacropus rufogriseus · also called Bennett's wallaby

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal; marsupial
NATIVE REGION	Eastern Australia; Tasmania
HABITAT	Eucalyptus forest; woodland edges
DIET	Herbivore: grasses and herbs
HEAD AND BODY	36-41 in, plus a 28-30 in tail
WEIGHT	About 30-41 lb; males larger
POUCH LIFE	About 280 days
STATUS	Least Concern



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- A newborn joey develops in its mother's pouch.
- Pregnancy lasts only about 30 days.
- A wallaby uses its tail as a prop at slow speeds.
- A group of wallabies is called a mob.
- On hot days, wallabies cool off by licking their forearms.

Words to know

Marsupial: A mammal born early; young usually develop in a pouch.
Joey: A baby wallaby or kangaroo.
Macropod: The large-footed group of wallabies and kangaroos.
Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.

Think about it

1. What is a baby wallaby called?
2. How do the mother's pouch and nursing help a joey survive?
3. How does a wallaby differ from a kangaroo?
4. Use page evidence to explain how the legs and tail support movement.
5. What do red-necked wallabies eat?

Draw it

Draw a mother wallaby and joey. Label the pouch, hind legs, tail and ears. Explain how each structure helps with survival, movement or care for the young.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/red-necked-wallaby/ · **Sources:** Plumpton Park Zoo; Animal Diversity Web; Smithsonian National Zoo
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo

RED-NECKED WALLABY

Before and after your visit

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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the red-necked wallaby live?

Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Marsupial ☐ Joey ☐ Macropod ☐ Herbivore

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the red-necked wallaby.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: Eastern Australia; Tasmania. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Herbivore: grasses and herbs. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

- How do the mother's pouch and nursing help a joey survive?

_____

- How does a wallaby differ from a kangaroo?

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.