

# The Koala Life Cycle

1

The female koala breeds between September and February. She is pregnant for about 35 days before typically giving birth to 1 joey that looks like a pink jellybean. The joey attaches itself to a teat inside its mother's pouch.



2

The joey drinks only mother's milk for the first 6-7 months. Then it begins to eat pap, which is a specialised form of faeces (or koala poo). This prepares the joey to eat gum leaves. At about 6 months, the joey begins to spend time exploring outside the pouch.



3

As soon as it begins eating gum leaves, the joey grows at a much faster rate. At first, it clings onto its mother's belly or back. Eventually, it begins to make short trips away from its mother.



4

At around 1 year old, the joey leaves its mother. The joey is a fully-grown adult koala by about 4 years old. On average, koalas live to 10 to 12 years of age.



## Did You Know?

Koalas are not bears. They are marsupials, which means that they carry their young in a pouch. Eucalyptus leaves are tough and poisonous! Luckily for koalas, they have a long digestive organ called a cecum which allows them to break down the leaves unharmed.

