

Animal Movement (on the Ground)

The following activities are intended to be used as a follow-up to the virtual tour of the Toronto Zoo's Australasia Pavilion, with a focus on animals moving across the ground.

ACTIVITY ONE - Make a Pouch

Materials:

- Tea towel/beach towel
- Safety pins, string, or ribbon
- Stuffed animal/doll



After learning about the different types of pouches that marsupials can have based on their environment, create a pouch of your own! Remember, tree kangaroos have a vertical pouch (like a zipper on a sweater) to help keep their babies safe while climbing through trees. Kangaroos have a horizontal pouch (like a belt on your pants), and wombats have a pouch that faces backwards (upside down) to stop dirt from getting in the joey's face while mom is digging!

Make yourself a pouch by pinning/tying a towel to yourself - be sure to get an adult's help so that you don't hurt yourself! Which pouch style will hold your stuffy the best? What happens if you make an upside-down pouch, like a wombat? Does your stuffy stay in the pouch? How could you move so that the stuffy stays inside?

ACTIVITY TWO - Mind Map of Animal Movement

You have learned how some animals in the Toronto Zoo's Australasia Pavilion get around on the ground and in the trees. Create a mind map of different ways you think animals get around. Do all animals use the ground and/or trees? How might some other species have to move? Remember to consider animals such as insects, fish, lizards, monkeys, birds, etc.



ACTIVITY THREE - Animal Movement Charades

Write the names of various animals on slips of paper. With your family, take turns picking slips and acting out the movements of that animal. See if your family can guess what animal you are acting out!

Note: If it is too tricky to guess the animal based on movements alone, you are allowed to answer yes/no questions about your animal to give clues.

