

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage. Then use the information from the passage to answer questions 1–5.

Kangaroos and Opossums

Kangaroos and opossums are members of the same animal family. They are alike in many ways, but they are also very different. Both animals are marsupials, so they have pouches. Marsupial mothers carry their babies in these pouches. The babies stay there for up to three months. The mothers can keep them close by and make sure they are safe. They can feed their babies anytime.

They are both warm-blooded animals. (So are people.) Their bodies stay the same temperature all the time. But they live on different sides of the world. Kangaroos come from Australia. Opossums live in the Americas.

Most opossums are about as large as a cat. Kangaroos can be as big as a football player. Some kangaroos are over six feet tall. They can weigh more than 200 pounds.

Kangaroos and opossums both eat plants. But opossums also eat meat. Kangaroos spend their time on the ground and can move around fast. They eat mainly grass. Opossums spend more time in trees. They hang from their tails. This way, they can get food that is hard to reach, but other animals can't get them. Opossums will eat almost anything. They like leaves, fruit, and other plant food. They eat bugs and snails, too.

Kangaroos sleep at night, as most animals do. But opossums come out after dark.

These animals also face danger in different ways. Kangaroos fight by boxing and kicking, but opossums roll up and play dead.

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1. How are kangaroos and opossums alike?

- Ⓐ Both are cold-blooded.
- Ⓑ Both sleep at night.
- Ⓒ Both are marsupials.
- Ⓓ Both come from Australia.

2. How are kangaroos and opossums different?

- Ⓐ Only kangaroos have pouches.
- Ⓑ They are from different animal families.
- Ⓒ They are different sizes.
- Ⓓ Only kangaroos go out at night.

3. How are kangaroos and opossums alike?

- Ⓐ In danger, both box and kick.
- Ⓑ Both come out during the day.
- Ⓒ Both lay eggs in the sand.
- Ⓓ Both carry babies in pouches.

4. How are kangaroos and opossums alike and different in what they eat?

5. How are kangaroos and opossums different in where they usually spend their time?
