

WOMBAT STEW

Unit Study & Lapbook



Wombat Stew Unit Study & Lapbook

Book by Mem Fox

Literature based unit study prepared by Sharon Pickard

BIBLE & CHARACTER

Good Friends

The other animals were good friends to wombat; they saved his life. Discuss with your child what makes a good friend. You may want to refer to some stories in the Bible of good friends-- Jonathan and David are a good example of friendship (you may also want to discuss Ruth and Naomi).

→ Complete Characteristics of a Good Friend Accordion and add it to your lapbook.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Choral Reading

After a few readings of this book, your student should be able to "read" some parts along with you. Be sure to pause to indicate where your student should chime in with the right phrase. Use your finger under the words (as a guide) to show your student the words that you are reading together.

Fun with Words

Isn't this book fun to read? Enjoy language with your student. Go back through the story together and search for all the words that end with y. Make a list for your lapbook.

brewy	chewy	lumpy	crunchy	munchy	muddy
yummy	gooey	billy	creepy	spicy	chilly
toothy	snappy	cracky	tummy	chappy	blacky

Discuss the words with your student. Are they "real" words? No! Some of them are

made up. Encourage your student to make up some words, too. Let him add them to his y words list.

You can extend this activity by helping your student write his own rhyming verses similar to the ones found in *Wombat Stew*.

Recipe Writing

Have your child dictate how to make wombat stew (make sure to record this for her if she can't write yet). Another fun option would be to let your student invent a recipe for something she knows she won't like. If you are making a lapbook, you may want to include these recipes in a pocket.

Memory /Listmaking

Can you remember what each animal added to the stew? Use the flap book to record your child's answers. Let the child draw the ingredients under the flaps.

Introducing Verbs (Action Words)

The author includes different ways that each animal moves. Look at the text and point out these words. Tell your student that these action words have a special name-- verbs. Action verbs tell us what the character is doing.

Examples from the story:

Emu—waltzing, arched

Platypus—ambling, scooped

Lizard—sliding, snapped

Echidna—popped, bristled

Koala—climbed, shook

Dingo—danced, sang

You may want to act out these words with your student to help him remember that verbs are action words. You could also give your student brief commands: run, sit, stand, walk, sing, dance, etc. Then log your activity on paper. Autumn sang. Autumn ran. Autumn danced in the living room. Ask your student to tell you which word in the sentence is the action verb.

Plot

This is a simple story, but it includes a plot. Review or introduce the concept of

plot.

Conflict- The problem is what we call the conflict. What is the conflict in this story? (Dingo is going to eat Wombat!)

Rising Action- The events created by the problem. How the characters try to solve the problem. What is the rising action in this story? (Wombat's friends add yucky ingredients to the stew)

Climax- The most exciting moment of the story! What is the climax? (The stew is icky and Dingo is not going to be able to eat it!)

Resolution (or Denouement)- The final solution to the problem; the way the story ends. How does this story end? What is resolved? (Wombat is saved!)

Alliteration

Alliteration is repetition of the same initial consonant sound. Some writers choose alliteration because it can make a text more fun to read; others may choose it because the repetition of sound helps the reader remember. Point out the examples of alliteration to your younger student. Let your older student find them herself:

Some examples from the text:

Big **b**lobs and **b**illabong mud

Bright **B**lue-Tongue

Creepy **c**rawlies

Sliding of his **s**un **s**oaked **s**tone

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography: Australia

Locate Australia on a map or globe.

Australia is the sixth-largest country in the world. It is an island located in the Southern Hemisphere, between the Indian Ocean and the Southern Pacific Ocean.

Its nickname is "the Land Down Under" and the capital of Australia is Canberra. It is also called "the Land of Oz" as well as "the Outback."

Australia is also home to The Great Barrier Reef-- 1,000 miles of beautiful sea life including corals, sea anemones, sea stars, fish, sea slugs, giant clams, seaweed, and sharks.

→ Complete the map and flag of Australia for your lapbook.

→ Complete the Names for Australia mini-book.

Dingo Fence

The main character in this story is a dingo. Dingos have caused so much trouble for farmers that a huge fence was built across part of Australia to keep the dingos out. The fence is 5320kms long and is the longest fence in the world (the great wall of china is approximately 5,000kms long). The fence goes through 3 states.

It is called the Barrier Fence in Queensland, the Border Fence in New South Wales, and the Dog Fence in South Australia.

The fence is 180cm (6 feet) high. It is made of wire mesh which extends for 30cm (1 foot) below the ground. The fence is cleared to 5m on either side of the fence. There are star pickets every 9 meters (10yards). Originally the fence was maintained by the farmers but due to economic reasons it started to fall into disrepair. Today each section is the responsibility of the state government.

SCIENCE

Australian Animals

Take some time to study each animal. The animals in *Wombat Stew* are native to Australia and so found only in Australia.

Add the Who Am I? Books to your lapbook.

Learn even more from Enchanted Learning:

[Dingo](#)

[Wombat](#)

[Emu](#)

[Platypus](#)

[Echidna](#)

[Blue tongue Lizard](#)

[Koala](#)

[Kookaburra](#)

Animal Classification

If your student has studied animal classification before, you may want to help him make a chart to classify the animals found in this story (note: two groups of vertebrates-- fish and amphibians-- have not been included on the chart).

Birds	Mammals	Mammals- Marsupials	Mammals- Monotremes	Reptiles

Your student might like to learn more about Monotremes (they lay eggs but feed their young milk when they hatch). The duck-billed platypus and the spiny anteater (or Echidna) are both in this category. Both of these animals are unique and found only in Australia and New Guinea.

Chemistry

Lesson originally written for [Stone Soup](#)

Whether or not your child realizes it, making stew is a lesson in chemistry. Stew is a *mixture*, which is the combining of two or more substances in varying proportions, in which the original components retain their original chemical properties. In other words, when you put carrots, cabbage, and beef into a soup, you still end up with carrots, cabbage and beef after you cook the soup.

A *mixture* is different than a *compound* in that a compound is two or more substances that combined, make a new substance. Have your child identify each ingredient in the soup before and after it is cooked.

Taste Buds

Would your student like to taste wombat stew? (NO!) Why do some things taste good while other things taste bad? You can thank your taste buds. Taste buds are sensory organs found on the tongue they allow you to taste the sweet, bitter, salty, and sour flavors of your food. Have your student go look at his tongue in a mirror. Can he see all the bumps? The bumps are called papillae (puh-pih-lee) and contain taste buds (about 10,000!). Taste buds have very sensitive microscopic hairs called

microvilli (mye-kro-vih-lye). Those tiny hairs send messages to the brain about how something tastes. [Source](#)

Complete the Taste Matchbook and add it to your lapbook.

ART

Medium

Look at the pictures; they are drawn with pencil or crayon. Can your child determine which medium is used where?

Facial Expressions

The expressions on the animal's faces are animated. Ask your child what the expressions show.

Illustrator Study

Pamela Lofts also illustrated *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox. If you can, get a copy of *Koala Lou* and compare and contrast the illustrations.

MATH

Measurement in Cooking

Make a stew. Let your student help with the measuring of the ingredients. Have your older student recopy the recipe and "double" it; he will need to use fraction multiplication to accomplish this task.

JUST FOR FUN

P.E.

Act out wombat stew and make up your own dance.

Cooking

Make a stew for dinner, but leave out the wombat! If you are creating a lapbook, include photos of cooking and the finished product.

Write out the recipe you used and add to any other recipes you might have collected (see language arts and Maths). Maybe you could find a copy of *Stone Soup* and read it, too. This story adds to the working together theme found in *Wombat Stew*; the animals worked together to save wombat, and in *Stone Soup*, all worked together and all were fed.

Library List

One Woolly Wombat by Kerry Argent

Possum Magic by Mem Fox

Sail Away, the Ballad of Skip and Nell by Mem Fox

Wombat Divine by Mem Fox (this is a Christmas story)

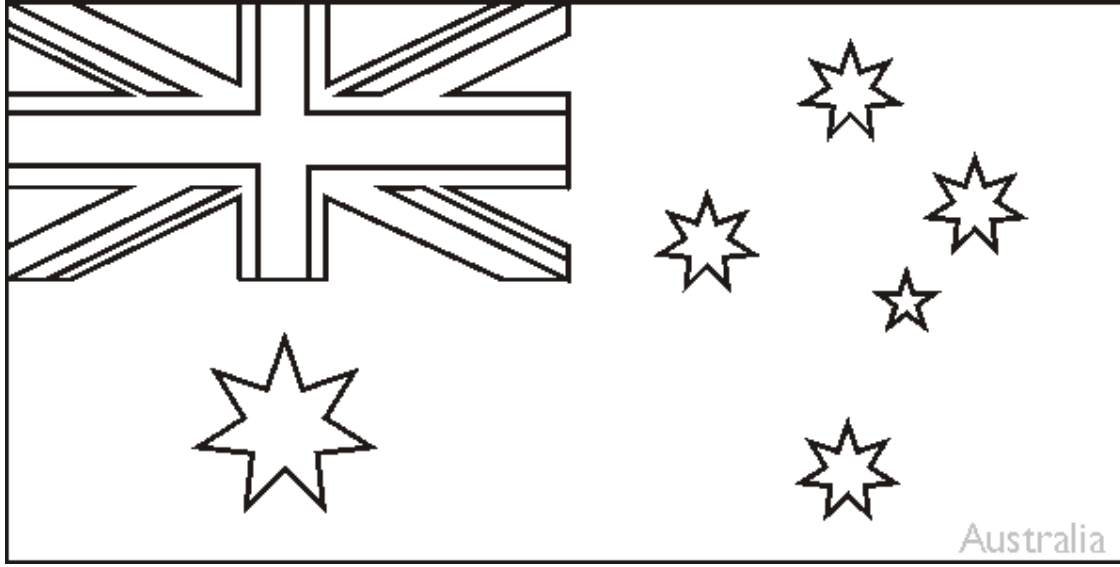
Stone Soup by Ann McGovern

Wombat Goes Walkabout by Michael Morpurgo

Koala Lou by Mem Fox

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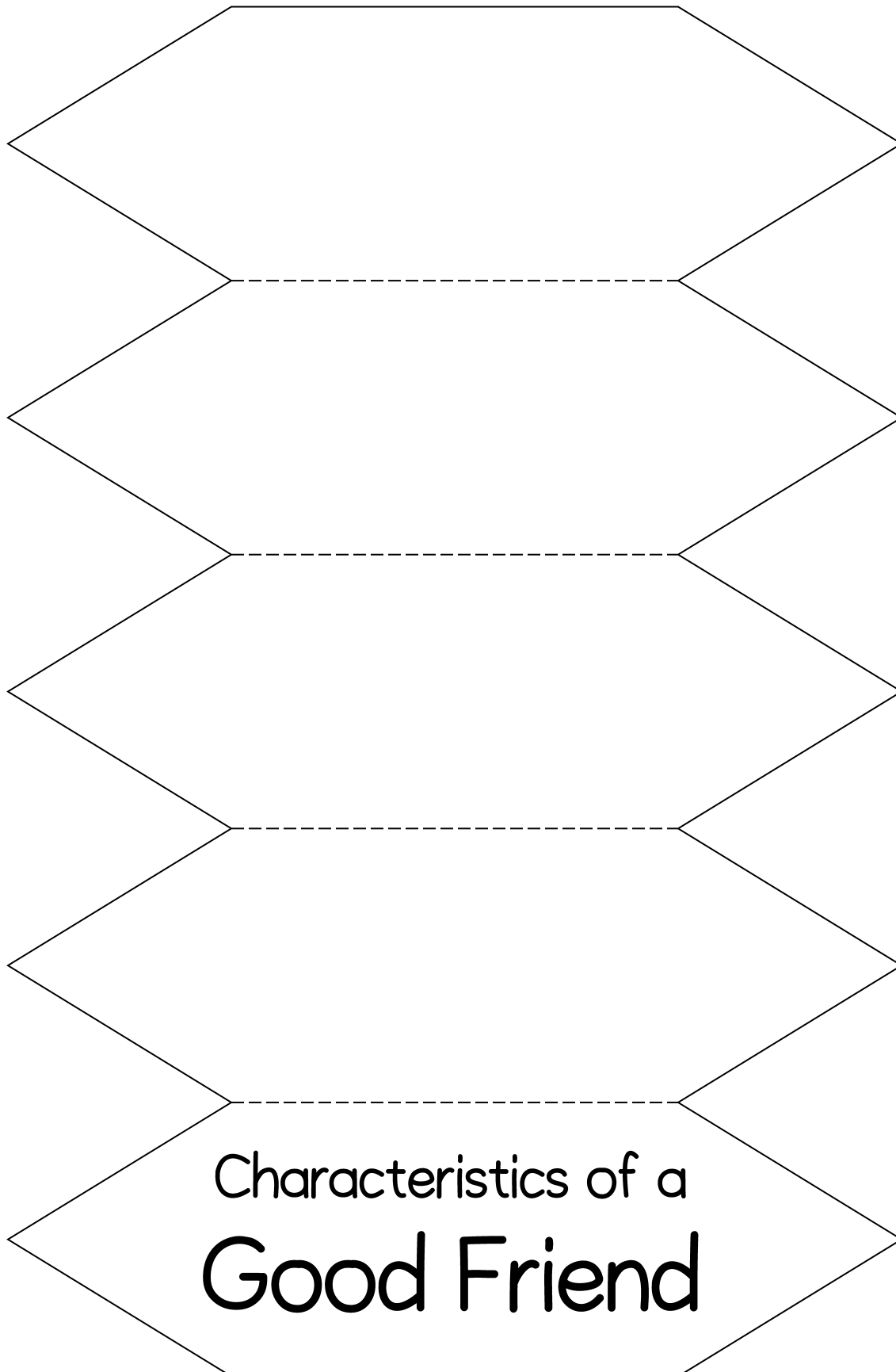


Cut "Flag of _____" book out as one piece. Fold in half. Cut out flag. Color. Paste inside book. Older students may want to write a few flag facts in the book as well.

Flag of
AUSTRALIA

Directions: Cut out shapes on solid black lines. Fold on dotted lines like an accordion (back and forth). Glue back of last piece to your lapbook.

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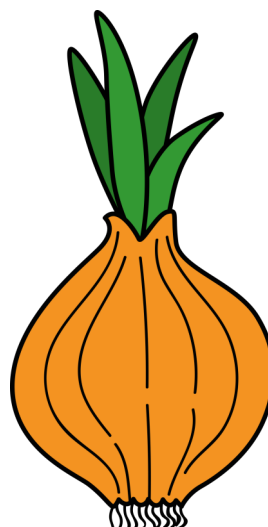
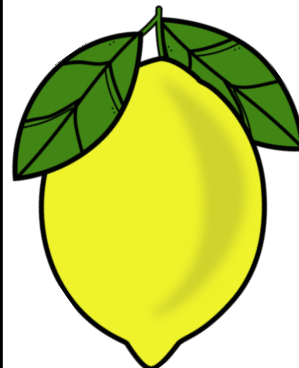
Directions: Cut out book. Fold on lines (matchbook style). Paste pictures inside the matchbook.

I Can Taste!



Salty

Sour



Bitter

Sweet



Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side under. Fold right side under (it is the cover). Unfold book. Cut on the lines to form five flaps.



Platypus

Emu



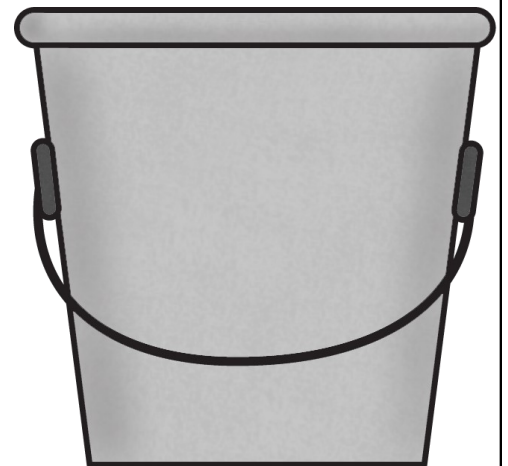
Lizard

Echidna

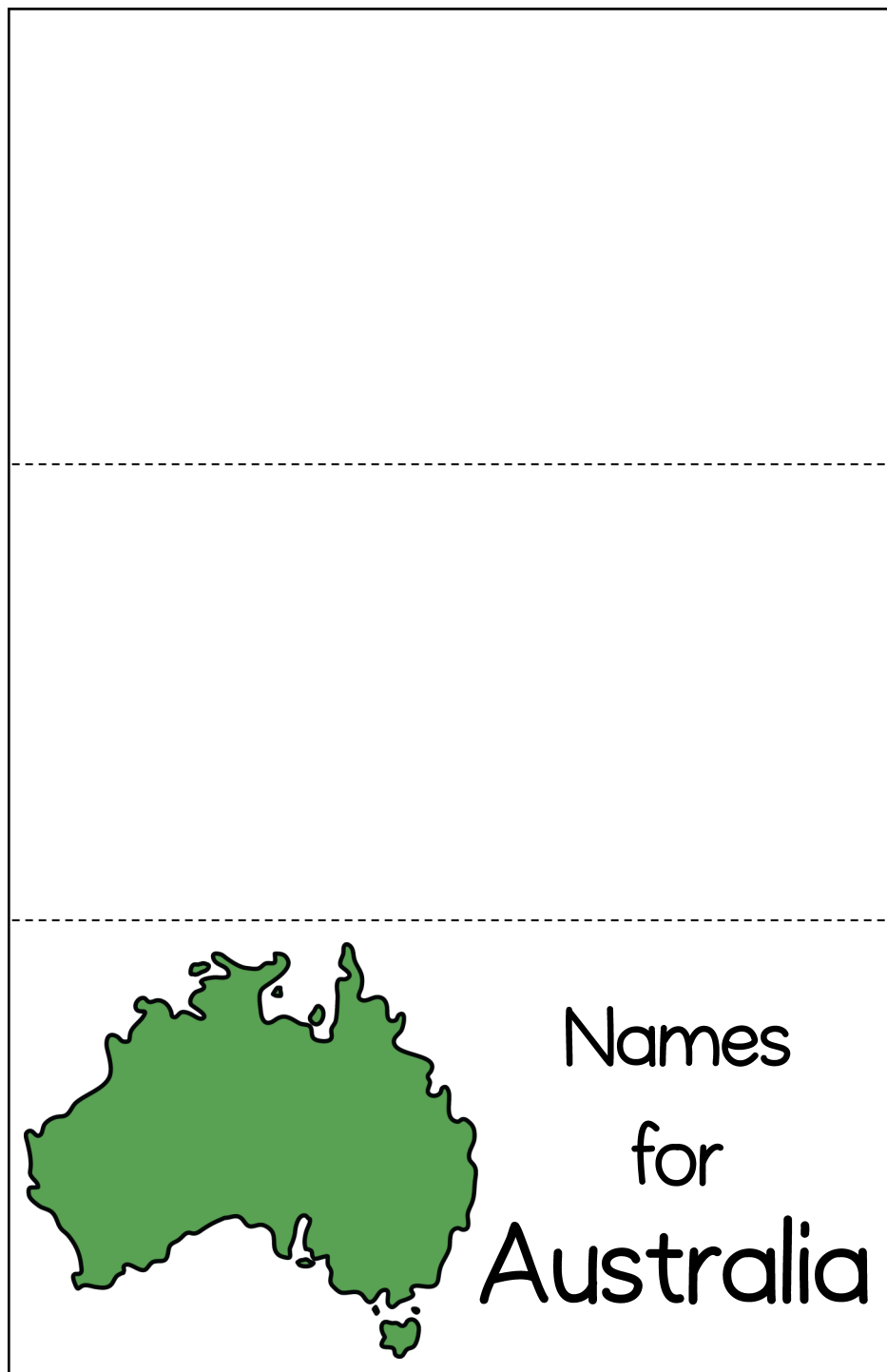


Koala

Who
Added
What
to the
Stew?

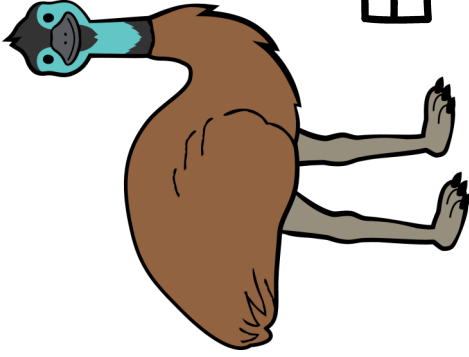


Directions: Cut on solid lines. Fold (in thirds) on dotted lines. Record the three names for Australia inside the book.



Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who



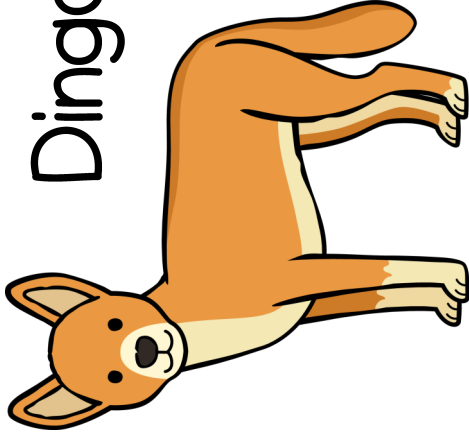
Emu!

I have feathers
and lay eggs.

I have a long
neck and long
legs.

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who



Dingo!

I have a fence
in Australia
named after
me.

I am a wild
dog, and I
want to eat a
wombat.

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who

I have sharp
claws which
are used for
digging.

Echidna!



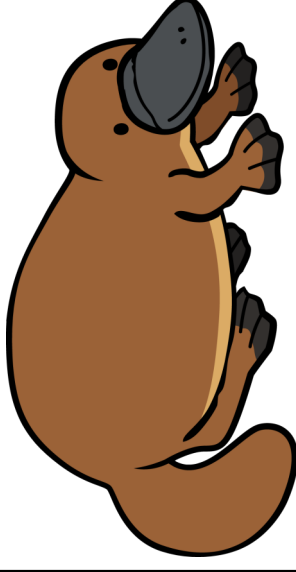
I am
sometimes
called a spiny
anteater.

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who

I have fur, but I
lay eggs.

Platypus!



I have a bill
and webbed
feet like a
duck.

Directions: Cut out book as one

piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Who
Am I?

Wombat!



I live
underground,
and I am good
at digging.

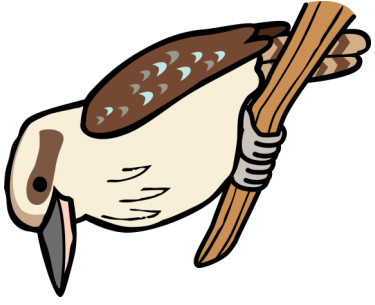
I am brown
and furry.

Directions: Cut out book as one

piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who

Kookaburra!



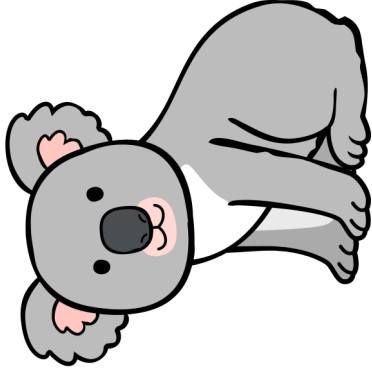
My song
sounds like
someone
laughing.

I have a big
beak.

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold right flap in. Fold left flap in. Fold cover down. Open and paste the animal to the center of the book.

Am I
Who

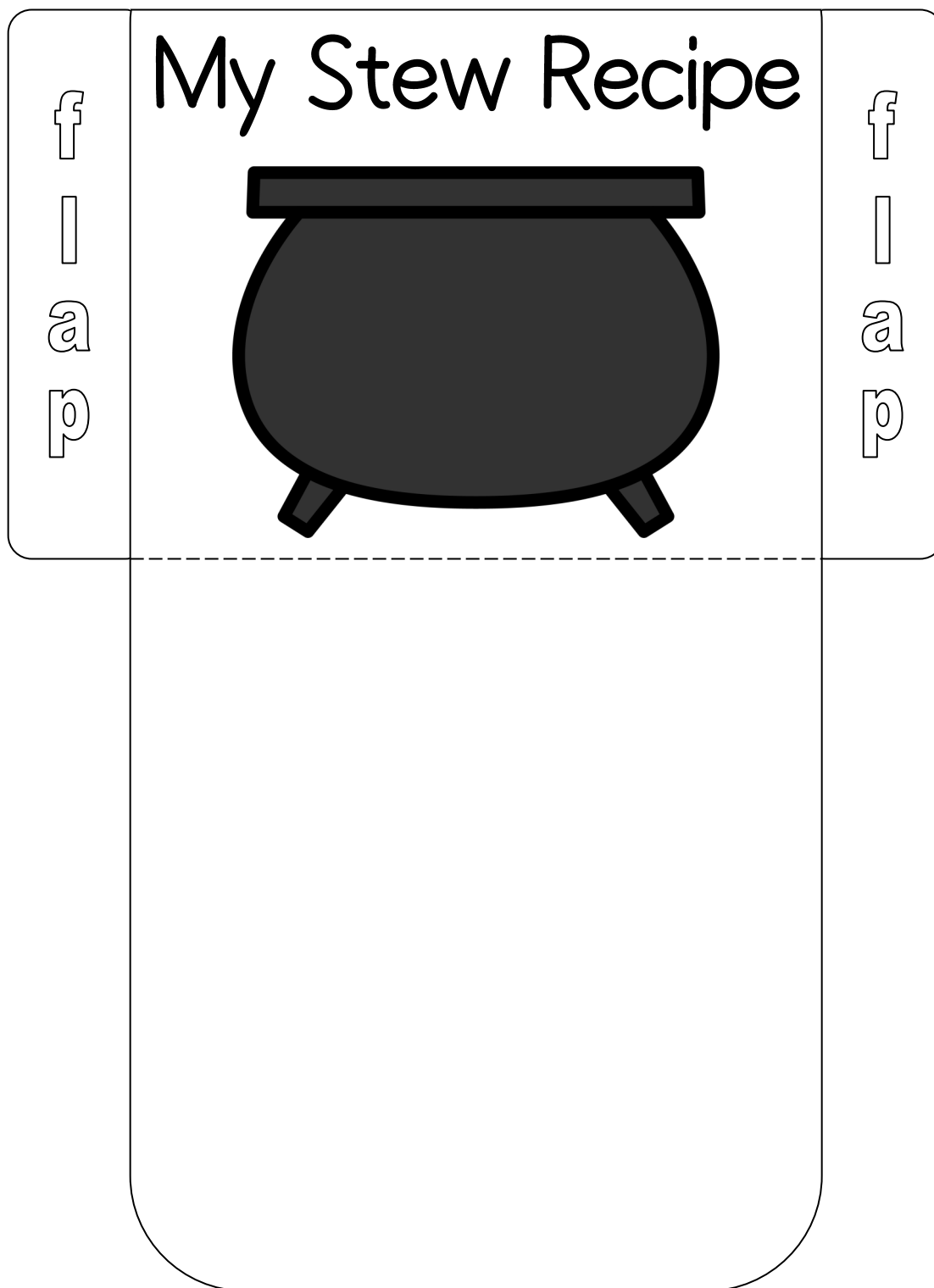
Koala!



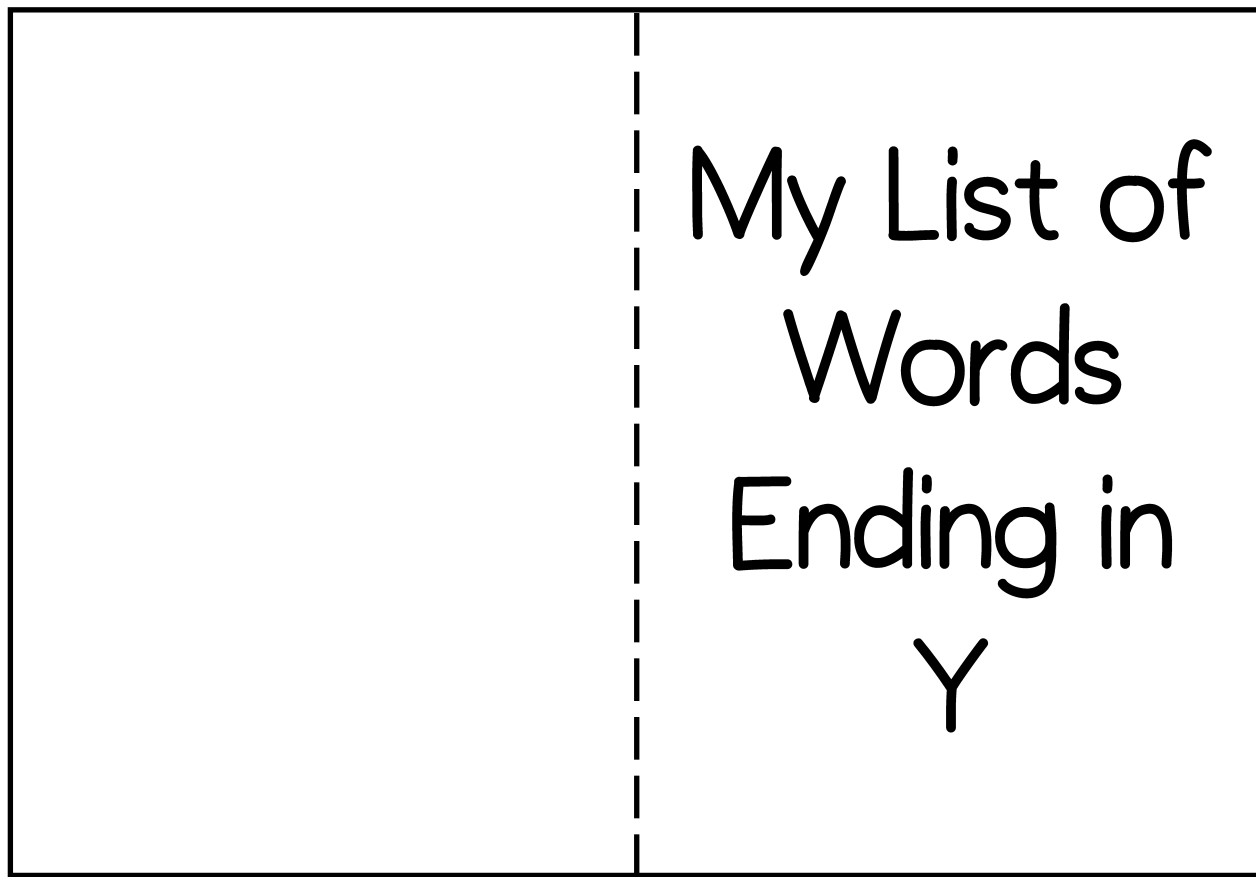
I like to eat
eucalyptus
leaves.

I am furry, but
I am not a
bear.

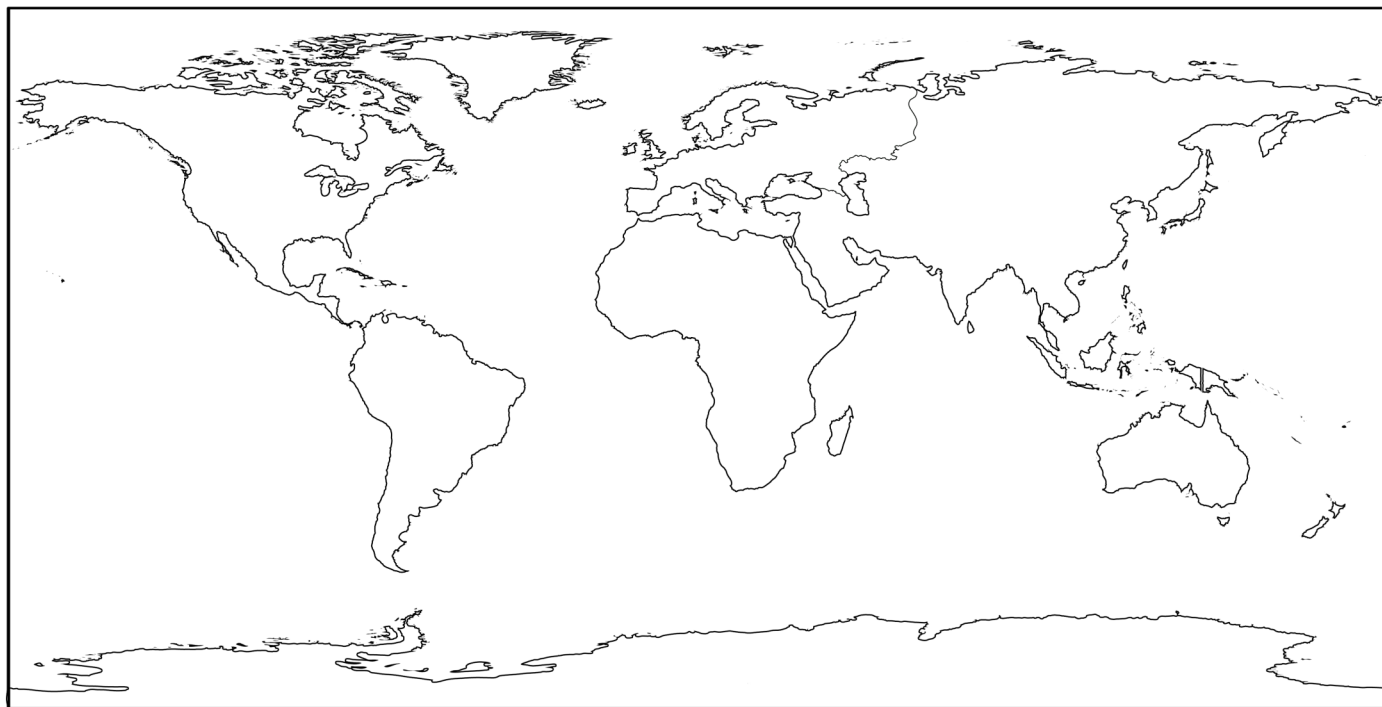
Directions: Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down. Store your student's original "wombat stew" recipe in the pocket. You could also use the pocket to store recipes you make together this week.



Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half.



Directions: Cut out map as one piece. Label Australia. Fold in half and add cover piece (next page) to the front.



Where Is Australia?



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Scrappin' Doodles

