

The marsupials

Marsupials are special animals – the mothers have pouches on their fronts where their babies live. After they are born the babies crawl into the pouch. There is a teat in the pouch so they can have a drink of milk whenever they like.

Australia has more marsupials than other country – we have kangaroos, wallabies, possums, wombats and Tasmanian devils. There are some marsupials in South America and one [the opossum] in North America.



[https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kangaroo_and_joey.jpg]

Show your parents
Chapter 12.

Here you can see the young kangaroo [joey] in the mother's pouch. This is quite a big joey – it could get out and jump about and eat grass and everything. He/she just likes to be in the pouch where it is nice and warm, and he/she gets carried around. Soon, this one will be too big to get into the pouch anymore.

Wallabies are also found in Australia – they are like small kangaroos.



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When this mother wallaby looked away, her joey started eating some grass she was holding.

OK, so we know that these other marsupials have pouches and carry their young ones around in them – but, it is hard to get pictures showing that. But, you can get some pictures of mothers with their young ones.

Koala



[<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=212540&picture=koala-bears>]

This is a mother koala with her baby on her back – she has a pouch, but her baby is way too big to ride in it.

Possum



[<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=2808&picture=brushtail-possums>]

This is another Australian marsupial – a mother possum with her baby on her back. Possums climb trees, and maybe, when the baby gets bigger it is easier to have it on her back rather than squashed up against a tree?

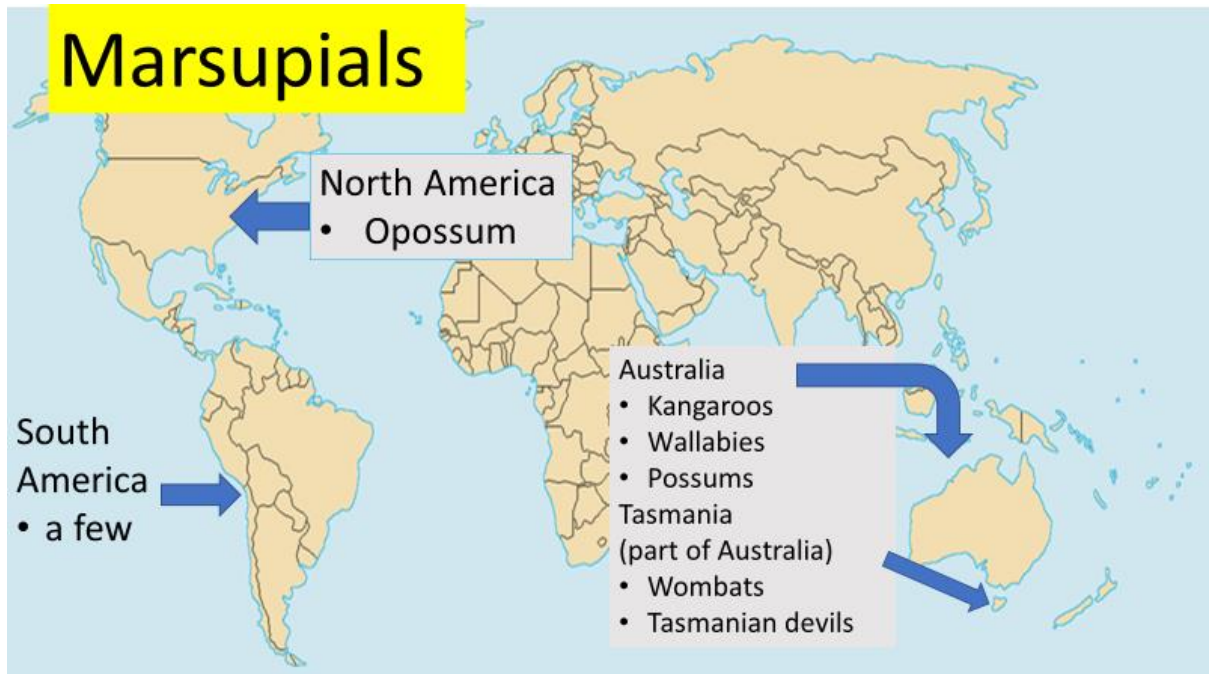
Tasmanian devil



[[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tasmanian_Devil_\(36313458360\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tasmanian_Devil_(36313458360).jpg)]

The Tasmanian devil is another Australian marsupial. However, they are not very friendly animals and the young ones don't hang around with their parents for very long.

Revision



Virginia opossum



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Opossum_2.jpg Author: Cody Pope]

The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial living in North America. It is about the size of a cat. We don't have pictures of it with its young ones – but, it has a pouch and the young ones live in the mother's pouch until they are old and strong enough to look after themselves.