

## Animals, mainly



[<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/kenya-things-to-do/index.html>]

If you go to Africa, you will see, in the daytime, huge herds of animals. The ones in this picture are wildebeest [also called ‘gnu’, which is a pretty cool name] – they are a type of antelope.

If you wander around in Australia, in the daytime, you may see a couple of kangaroos, but not many. Kangaroos are nocturnal, which means they come out at night. [Actually kangaroos like to come out just before nightfall and just before morning.]

Wombats, Tasmanian devils and possums are nocturnal – if you walk around in the bush in the daytime, you will hardly ever see one. [It is safer for them to come out at night, and their eyes work better at night.]

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[Pexels. Mark Gleeson. Many thanks.  
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/wombat-at-waldheim-1173659/>]

[A wombat who should be at home because it's daytime]

If you take a torch out in the Australian bush at night, and shine it up in the trees, you will certainly see possums then, they will be out eating and having parties. The point is, even though you don't see many, there are lots of animals around.



[Wikimedia Commons. Author: Vicki Nunn. Many thanks.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Common\\_Brushtail\\_Possum\\_\(public\\_domain\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Common_Brushtail_Possum_(public_domain).jpg)]

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This is an Australian possum. It is well behaved – it has only come out in the night.

## Fossils

If you go to the museum you will see what look like bones of animals which haven't been walking around on Earth for hundreds of thousands of years – like dinosaurs.

These might be real bones – or, they are often fossils. Fossils are mainly stone. What happens is, when an animal dies and is covered by water and mud, gradually the atoms [tiny bits] of bones are replaced by tiny bits of stone.

Sometimes all the mud and earth turns into stone and what you find is the shape of where the bones used to be.

[The same thing happens for plants and sea creatures.]



[Wikimedia Commons. Author: James L. Amos. Many thanks.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Archaeopteryx\\_fossil.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Archaeopteryx_fossil.jpg)]

This is a fossil of an Archaeopteryx [we can't say that either] – anyway, it was a dinosaur bird. Many of these lived in Germany – about 150 million years ago.

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This is one of those fossils where the mud and earth has turned to stone and you see where the bones used to be. If you look very closely you can see where the feathers used to be on the wings.



[ABSFreePic.com. Absolutely free pictures.  
[http://absfreepic.com/free-photos/download/dinosaur-fossils-in-museum-2592x3888\\_54383.html](http://absfreepic.com/free-photos/download/dinosaur-fossils-in-museum-2592x3888_54383.html)]

This is a fossil of a dinosaur – pretty scary. So, they really did walk around on Earth.

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[<https://pixabay.com/photos/fossil-plant-leaf-stone-rock-2166817/>]

Plants can also be made into fossils.



[<https://paultrani.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/lion-1170x830.png>]

**Q: What tastes better than it smells?**

A: Your tongue!

**Q: What room has no doors or windows?**

A: A mushroom!

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**Q: What's orange and sounds like a parrot?**

A: A carrot!

**Q: Before Mt Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?**

A: Mt Everest!

**Knock, knock.**

**Who's there?**

**Cook.**

**Cook who?**

**Yes you are!**