

# Marsupials of Australia



- 1) What are the names of some of Australia's native marsupials?
- 2) Where did these names originate?





**Common Wombat:** The name 'wombat' is derived from the Dharug language of the indigenous people of Sydney. The Wiradjuri people of NSW called it 'wambad'!





**Tasmanian Devil:** European settlers named this marsupial the 'devil' due to the frightening screams they make when they are squabbling at night. Indigenous names for the Tasmanian Devil include 'taraba' and 'poirinnah.'





Long-nosed Bandicoot: 'Bandicoot' is not an indigenous name. It comes from the Indian name for large rat.





**Numbat:** This name is borrowed from the Nyungar people of the south west region of Western Australia.





**Tiger Quoll (or Spotted-tailed Quoll):** The name of this marsupial came from the Guugu Yimithirr people of Far North Queensland.





**Eastern Grey Kangaroo:** The name 'kangaroo' is from the Guugu Yimithirr people of Northern Queensland, 'gangurro'.





**Quokka:** The name 'quokka' comes from the Nyungar indigenous word for the animal, 'kwoka.'





Long-nosed potaroo: The Eora people of Sydney called this animal 'poto-roo'.





**Pademelon:** The name pademelon comes from the word 'badimaliyan' in the Dharug language of Port Jackson, Sydney.





**Koala:** The word 'koala' comes from the word 'gula' in the Dharung language of Sydney. Other indigenous names from different regions include cullawine, bangaroo, and karbor.