

## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

Written by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

### ABOUT THE BOOK

#### GUIDED READING:

I

#### LEXILE LEVEL:

530L

#### CHARACTER TRAITS:

Fairness  
Resourcefulness  
Sharing

#### REGION:

Australia

#### ISBN:

978-0-874838-79-4

### Outcome

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through discussion, matching, sequencing, acting, drawing, cooking, and phonics.

### Overview

Students will read and explore a folktale from Australia while utilizing interdisciplinary connections in language arts, dramatic arts, art, and math.

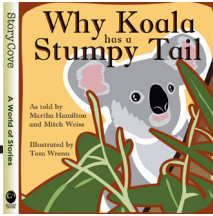
### Materials

#### General

- Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Popsicle sticks
- Pencils
- 1 (7-Inch) white paper plate per student
- Unlined paper

#### Cooking Activities

- Paper plates
- Napkins



## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

PreK

- Spoons
- 1 Small pita pocket per student
- Assorted cut fruits such as apples, bananas, peaches, and pears

### Optional: Extension Activities

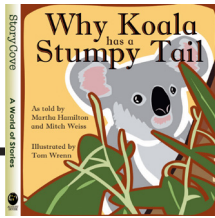
- Computer with Internet access
- Forest, Heather. *The Little Red Hen*. Little Rock: August House, 2006.

### Assessment Tools

- “Character Puppets” worksheet
- “Shortest to Tallest” worksheet
- “Matching Pictures” worksheet
- “Beginning Sounds” worksheet
- “Koala Parts” worksheet
- “Patterns” worksheet

### Table of Contents

Introduction	• 4
Discussion Questions	• 5
Language Arts	• 6
Phonics	• 8
Dramatic Arts	• 9
Art	• 11
Cooking	• 12
Extension Activity	• 13



# Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

PreK

## Introduction

### Introducing the Story

Directions:

- Teacher tells students they will be talking about friendship.
- Asks students to tell how to be a good friend.
- Asks students what one should not do, if one wants to be a good friend.
- Encourages students to talk about their friends and experiences with friendship.

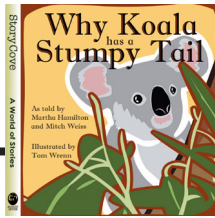
### Teacher Reads the Story

Materials:

- Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*

Directions:

- Tells students they will be listening to a folktale about two Australian animals—a koala and a tree kangaroo. Teacher tells students to listen carefully so that they can tell how friendship is important in this story.
- Reads the story and pauses to check comprehension as needed.



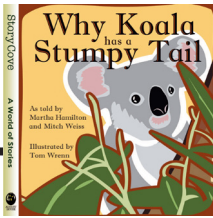
## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

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### Discussion Questions

#### For Assessing Comprehension

- Who are the characters in this story?
- What is this story about?
- Where does this story take place?
- How did Koala and Tree Kangaroo feel about each other at the beginning of the story?
- Why were the streams dried up?
- Why were Koala and Tree Kangaroo worried?
- Who had the idea to find water?
- What idea did Tree Kangaroo have?
- Who started digging in the streambed?
- Why didn't Koala help Tree Kangaroo dig for water?
- How did Tree Kangaroo feel when Koala did not help him dig?
- What did Koala do when Tree Kangaroo found water?
- Why did Tree Kangaroo pull Koala's tail?
- What happened when Tree Kangaroo pulled Koala's tail?
- Were Tree Kangaroo and Koala friends at the end of the story? Why or why not?



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### Language Arts

#### Story Retell with Puppets

Materials:

- Book, *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*
- “Character Puppets” worksheet
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Popsicle sticks

Directions:

- Students color in Koala and Tree Kangaroo.
- Cut out Koala and Tree Kangaroo on the dotted lines.
- Glue each character to a Popsicle stick.
- Retell the story using the puppets while teacher shows students the story illustrations.

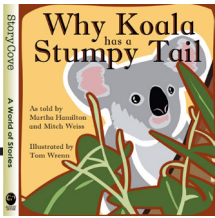
#### Shortest to Tallest

Materials:

- “Shortest to Tallest” worksheet
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks

Directions:

- Color in the pictures of the koalas.
- Cut out each picture on the dotted lines.



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PreK

- Arrange the pictures from shortest to tallest.
- Glue the pictures on the paper in order from shortest to tallest.

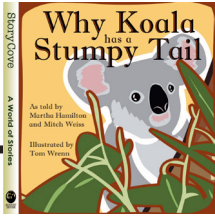
### Matching Pictures

#### Materials:

- “Matching Pictures” worksheet
- Crayons or markers

#### Directions:

- Look at the pictures.
- Name each picture.
- Draw a line to match the pictures that are the same.



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### Phonics

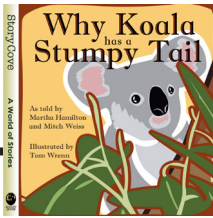
#### Beginning Sounds

Materials:

- "Beginning Sounds" worksheet
- Pencils

Directions:

- Name each picture.
- Trace the letter that creates the beginning sound of each word.
- Name the letters.



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PreK

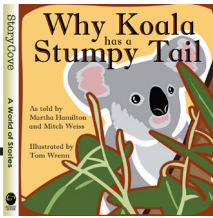
### Dramatic Arts

#### Dialogue

##### Directions:

- Teacher reads the dialogue and sentences below.
- Students act out each situation with appropriate body language, intonation, and facial expressions:
  - “I have an idea,” said Tree Kangaroo.
  - Koala cried, “Let’s try that! I can’t wait to taste the cool water.”
  - Koala whined, “I’m tired and thirsty. You start digging while I rest in this tree. As soon as I get my strength back, I’ll dig while you rest.”
  - Tree Kangaroo began to dig. It was hard work.
  - Tree Kangaroo looked up and saw Koala was sound asleep.
  - When Koala woke up, Tree Kangaroo called out, “Now it’s your turn. You must do your part.”
  - Koala began to climb down from the tree. But then he cried, “Ouch! I just got a thorn in my foot. You keep digging while I get it out.”
  - “Koala!” yelled Tree Kangaroo. “I am worn out. I need a break.”
  - Koala began to climb down. But this time he called out, “I’m dizzy from lack of water. I must rest a little longer.”
  - Tree Kangaroo was getting mad, but he kept on digging.
  - Tree Kangaroo shouted, “Koala it worked!”

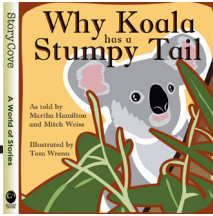




## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

PreK

- Koala jumped down and rushed to the hole. He pushed Tree Kangaroo out of his way. Koala stuck his head into the water and began to gulp it down.
- Tree Kangaroo was furious. He called out, "Save some for me!"
- Koala kept on drinking and drinking and drinking.
- Tree Kangaroo grabbed Koala's tail. He yanked and yanked.



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### Art

#### Paper Plate Koalas

Materials:

- “Koala Parts” worksheet
- Scissors
- 1 (7-Inch) white paper plate per student
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers

Directions:

- Color the plate and koala parts gray.
- Draw the koala’s eyes, nose, mouth, and other features on the appropriate parts.
- Glue the koala parts on the plate as shown in the finished koala picture on the worksheet.

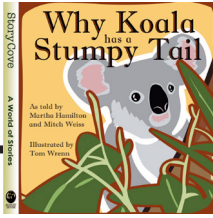
#### Drawing

Materials:

- Crayons or markers
- Unlined paper

Directions:

- Students draw their favorite parts of the story.
- Show their pictures to the class and tell about their favorite parts of the story.



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PreK

### Cooking

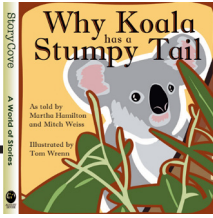
#### Tree Kangaroo Pockets

Materials:

- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Spoons
- 1 Small pita pocket per student
- Assorted cut fruits such as apples, bananas, peaches, and pears

Directions:

- Teacher asks students what the pita pockets and tree kangaroos have in common. (A pocket)
- Teacher tells students that tree kangaroos prefer a vegetarian diet that includes fruit.
- Students fill the pita pockets with fruit.
- Students enjoy eating the tree kangaroo pockets snack.



## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

PreK

### Extension Activity

#### Kangaroo Races

Directions:

- Teacher tells students that tree kangaroos are clumsy on the ground, but move easily in the trees by hopping and leaping. Tree kangaroos can move their legs independently, but their relative, the kangaroo, can only hop moving both back legs together.
- Asks students to show how kangaroos move by hopping.
- Divides the class into two or more groups and organizes kangaroo hopping races.

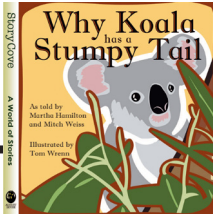
#### Technology Connection

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access

Directions:

- Teacher helps students access [www.storycove.com](http://www.storycove.com).
- Students view the animation for *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail* narrated by the authors.
- Students think about how the storytellers use their voices to convey emotions throughout the story.
- Students explore the animations and activities for other stories on [www.storycove.com](http://www.storycove.com).



## Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail

PreK

### Compare and Contrast

Materials:

- Book, *The Little Red Hen*

Directions:

- Teacher reads *The Little Red Hen* by Heather Forest.
- Teacher and students compare and contrast the themes of laziness and hard work in this story and *Why Koala Has a Stumpy Tail*.

### Patterns

Materials:

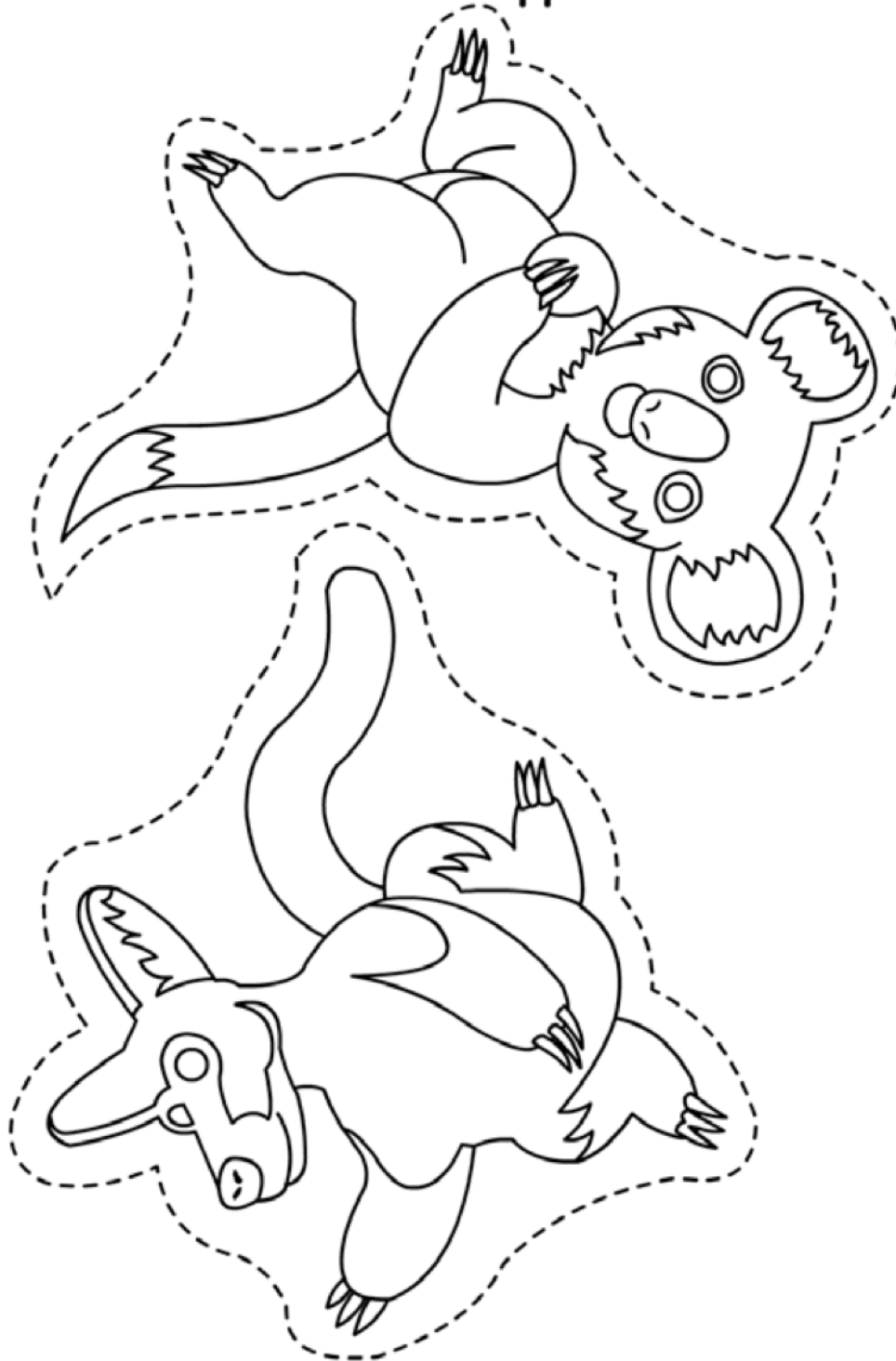
- “Patterns” worksheet
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

Directions:

- Cut out the squares on the “Patterns” worksheet containing Koala and Tree Kangaroo.
- Arrange the squares to create and repeat patterns.
- Create a pattern and have a partner finish the pattern.

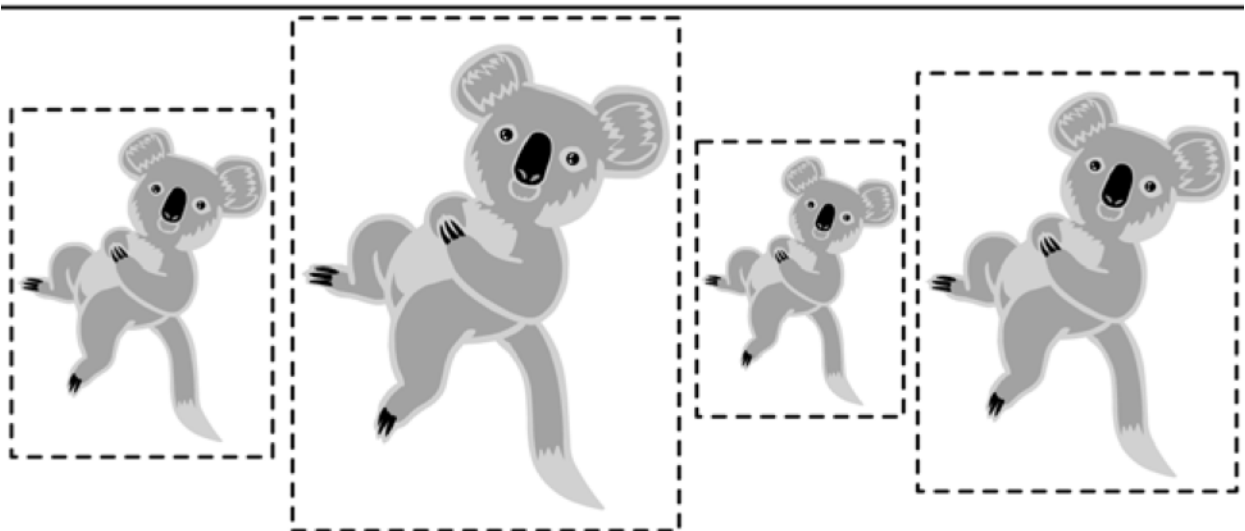
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**Character Puppets**



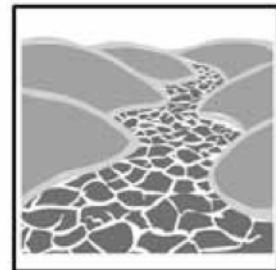
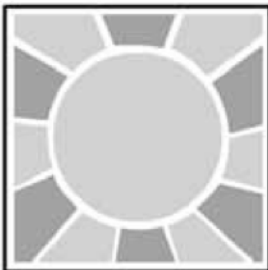
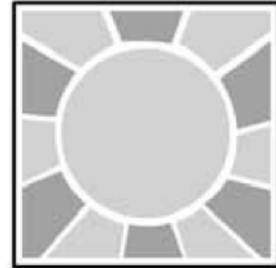
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Shortest to Tallest



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching Pictures



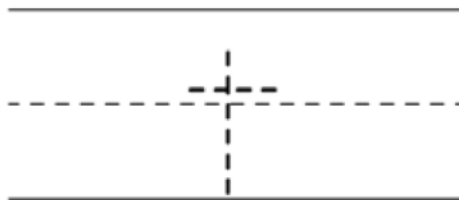
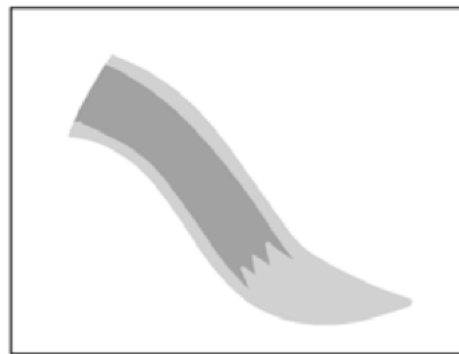
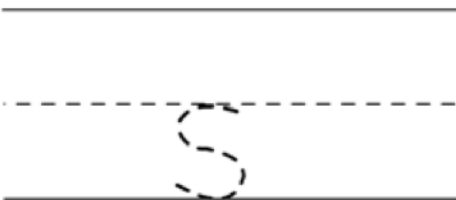
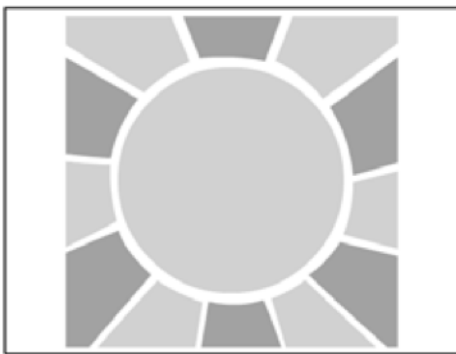
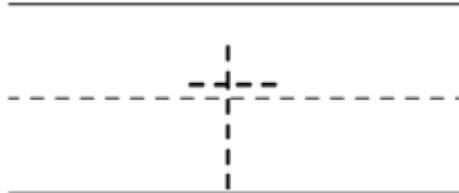
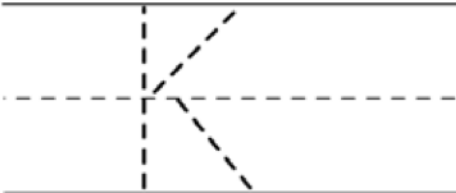
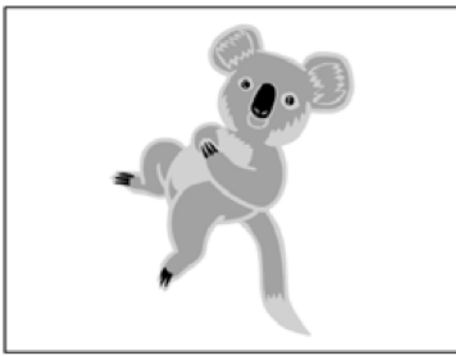


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Beginning Sounds

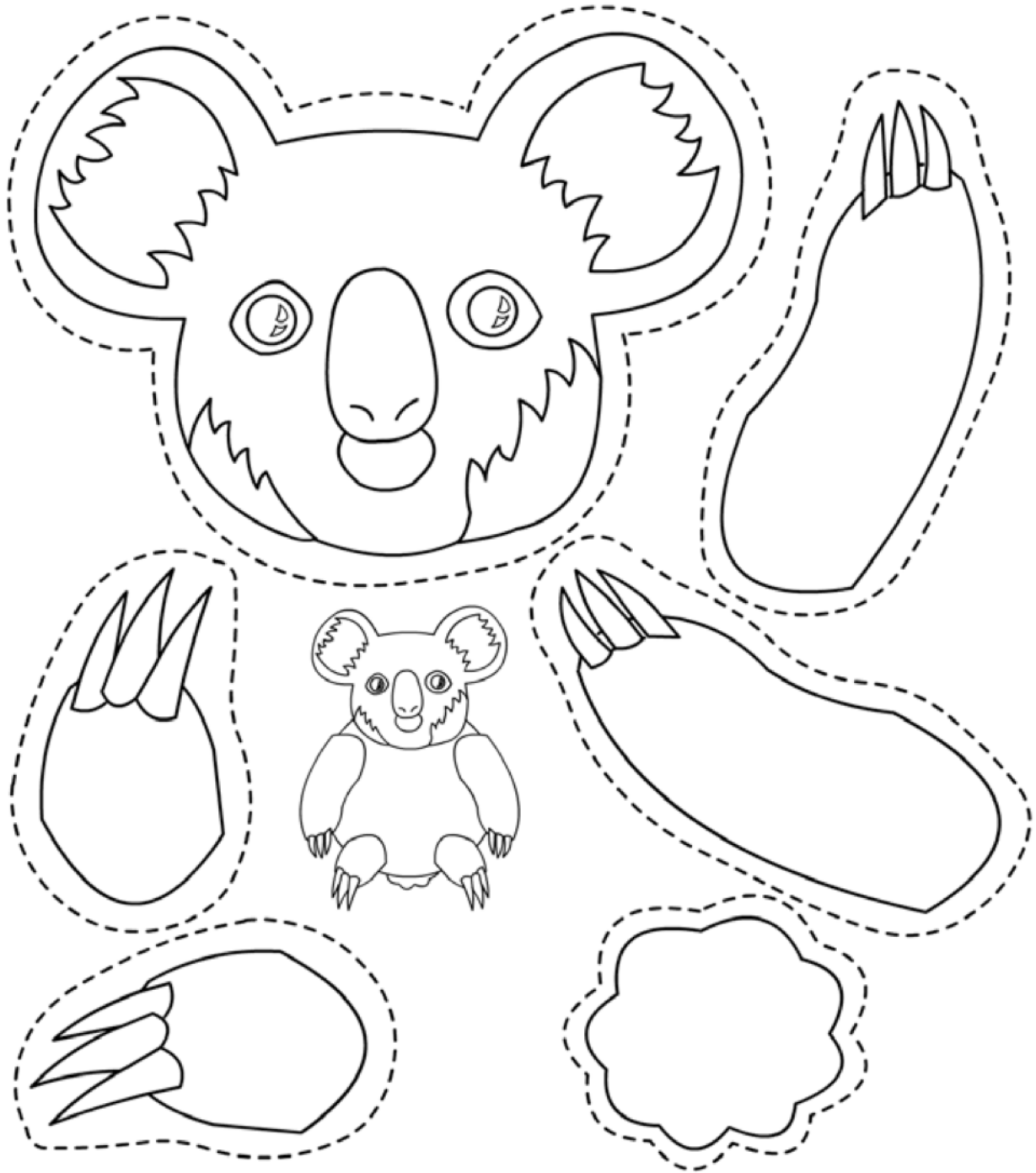
Directions:

1. Name each picture.
2. Trace the letter that creates the beginning sound of each word.
3. Name the letters.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Koala Parts**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Patterns**

