

# Year 5- Writing an Encyclopaedia Entry

Monday

LL: I can plan to write an encyclopaedia entry

I have taken the image from google.



Planning our Writing

An encyclopaedia is a book or set of books giving information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject and they are arranged alphabetically. There are also online versions such as Wikipedia. Using the image, we would like to create a page for this animal. It is up to you, whether you want to completely make the information up or whether you would like to research it. The photograph is showing a female possum carrying her young.

- How are you going to organise the information?
- How are you going to make the information easy to read?
- How are you going to make the information interesting to read?
- What type of vocabulary will you use?

Possible Vocabulary: habitat, located, mammal, species, small-sized, medium, snout, jaw, whiskers, fur, tails, omnivores, marsupials, consumes, survive, solitary, social, nomadic, burrows, nocturnal, threatened, climbing, carry, young, cling, growl, noise, distressed, diet, predatory, adaptation, prey, predator etc. If you don't understand any of these words, look them up in a dictionary.

Add some sentences below that you might want to add to your encyclopaedia page. One has been given as an example.



The white snouted possum can be found in many parts of the world including Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Scandinavia and Northern France. (made up information)

Answering these questions will give you a better understanding of what you will write tomorrow:

- What is their habitat? Where is their habitat?
- What do they feed on? How do they avoid predators? Do they have any special adaptations?
- What is their temperament like?
- What type of animal are they?
- How do they look after their young?

# Year 5- Writing an Encyclopaedia Entry



Tuesday

LL: I can write an encyclopaedia entry

Using your planning from yesterday, you are going to write your page on the animal in the photograph.

Success Criteria:

- Use a **range of sentence** constructions (long, detailed sentences contrasting with short sentences to keep the reader interested)
- Give **factual** information
- Use **technical vocabulary** and keep the writing **formal**
- Write in **present tense** and in **3rd person**
- Organise paragraphs carefully and use **subheadings**
- Use **punctuation accurately** to include extra information

Your writing does not need to be longer than a page. You can include pictures to your text if it helps your reader understand the information.

Here are some examples of what encyclopaedia entries are like (I have used a kangaroo as an example entry):

Click [here](#) to visit Encyclopaedia Britannica



The kangaroo is a **marsupial** from the family **Macropodidae** (macropods, meaning "large foot"). In common use the term is used to describe the largest species from this family, the red kangaroo, as well as the antilopine kangaroo, eastern grey kangaroo, and western grey kangaroo. Kangaroos are **indigenous** to Australia. The Australian government estimates that 34.3 million kangaroos lived within the commercial harvest areas of **Australia** in **2011**, up from 25.1 million one year earlier.

## Technical vocabulary

Marsupial found only in Australia, New Guinea and adjacent islands. The three main types are the grey kangaroo, the red kangaroo and the wallaroo, or euro. The thick, coarse fur is red, brown, grey or black. The front legs are small, the hind legs long and used in leaping. Height: to 1.8m (6ft) at the shoulder; weight: to 70kg (154lb). Family Macropodidae, genus **Macropus**.

Factual information

Punctuation used to add information

# Year 5- Writing an Encyclopaedia Entry



Enjoying Learning and



Eyes and ears are set in grooves on the sides of the head.

Beak has sensitive olfactory receptors.

## PLATYPUS

When the first stuffed platypus reached two centuries ago, scientists marveled at what they thought it was a cross between a mammal and a bird, for four webbed feet has a rubbery beak. Platypuses live in rivers. They use their beak and a sense to probe the mud on the bottom for crustaceans, and other small

During the breeding season, the female digs a long burrow, where she lays eggs. She curls around the hatch, then feeds her young up to five months. Male platypuses have poison spurs on their legs that can inflict a painful bite.

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Oornithorhynchus anatinus*

**DISTRIBUTION** Eastern Australia, Tasmania

**SIZE** Up to 23.5 in. (60cm) long; 1.5 kg

## WESTERN LONG-BEDED ECHIDNA

There are five species of echidna, sometimes called spiny anteaters. A round body is covered with fur and it has a remarkable snout that is like a pencil. Its short legs end in feet with claws that are good for digging. Spiny anteaters use their claws to break open the shells of termites, before sweeping their long tongues. During the breeding season, females lay between one and three eggs in a temporary nest. The young hatch, stay in the nest for eight weeks, then their spines begin to grow.

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Zaglossus bruijnii*

**DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea

**SIZE** Up to 31.5 in. (80cm) long



TOP Underwater, a platypus uses its eyes and nose other senses to find food.  
ABOVE The long-nosed spiny anteater feeds on earthworms as well as ants.

The earliest mammals lived on land, but modern mammals also live in fresh water, sea water, and the air. Land mammals have four legs; swimming mammals often have flippers instead. Mammals that fly and glide, such as bats and flying squirrels, have flaps of stretchy skin that help them stay aloft. Many mammals have good eyesight and a keen sense of smell. Compared to other animals, their brains are highly developed. Because they are warm-blooded, they can remain active when it is cold. Most mammals give birth

Courtesy of Material

## MONOTREMES AND MARSUPIALS

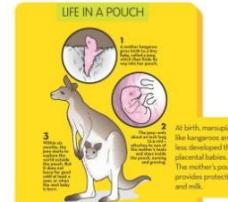
The egg-laying mammals, or monotremes, are strange-looking relics of the past. Though they were once common, there are now only four species left, all found in Australia and the southern island group. They include a number of appealing species, such as the platypus.

Similar to other (placental) mammals, monotremes and marsupials produce milk and nurse their young. However, bear in mind that they are not the only ones that do this. Both groups are still different in a number of ways! They have several unique anatomical features, for example. One is the cloaca, a common opening for their reproductive, intestinal, and urinary tracts. Birds and reptiles have something similar.

Their reproductive strategies differ. Monotremes lay eggs and produce milk for their young but lack nipples. Marsupials give birth to live young, which then crawl into their pouches. Some joey remains in the pouch for as long as one year, or until the next baby is born.

Australia is the only place where they are found. Monotremes live only in Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea and are represented by only five species. Most of the 334 species of marsupials also are found in Australia, though some are found in South America and Africa. However, fossils of extinct marsupials have been found in almost every continent except Europe. They once had alongside placental mammals in the Americas, for example. Today, only one survives in North America, the Virginia opossum. In Central America, and South America.

Life spans for monotremes and marsupials range up to 50 years.



COMMON BRUSH-TAILED POSSUM  
*TACHYPODUS UROCELE*

RANGE: Australia, Tasmania, New Guinea

SIZE: 5.5 to 19 lb (0.2 to 8.4 kg)

DINER: Leaves, flowers, shrubs, fruit, seeds, insects, small animals that live in trees, have long tails, and eat mostly plants.

HABITAT: Forests, woodlands, and scrubland.

REPRODUCTION: Give birth to one example.



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM  
*Didelphis virginiana*

RANGE: Central America and the United States

SIZE: 10 to 16 lb (5 to 8 kg)

DINER: Insects and various small animals.

HABITAT: Forests, deserts,

scrubland, and grasslands.

REPRODUCTION: Give birth to one example.

## WOLVES

Wolves eat adult caribou, sheep, horses, and other large mammals. They are also known to eat porcupines. In North America, up to 100 members of a wolf pack may be killed in a single field hunt because the birds peck off carcasses and die of suffocation.

Wolves may also eat surplus killing of large numbers of natural prey or brook trout.

**Alpha Wolf**

Most biologists and animal behaviorists no longer use the terms alpha male and alpha female to describe the breeding pair of a wolf pack. Animal behaviorists believe that these terms are misleading in their studies of captive wolves in zoos, because they suggest that there is a clear hierarchy of dominance. The word *dominance* has captured public interest and was wrongly applied to domestic dogs as well.

We have since learned that the leaders of a wolf pack are a mated pair with lifelong bonds.

The preferred terms now are breeding male, breeding female, breeding mate, or parents.

unless parted by death. Pack members are their offspring or family of various ages, with very few exceptions such as a replacement male or female. Family members are closely related and complex and often relate to age or individual territoriality. We also discuss the social and pack bonding changes that occur as the pack begins to disperse. Either the male or female may assume leadership in different times and situations.

The preferred terms now are breeding male, breeding female, breeding mate, or parents.

**Gray Wolf**

[Canis lupus]  
Gray wolves are found around the Northern Hemisphere but have been reduced to about one-third of their natural range because of hunting by humans and fragmentation of habitat, and loss of prey species. In North America, gray wolves used to have prey in abundance, but continue to have prey gray in abundance in their current range, unlike much of Europe.

**SPECIES AND RANGE**

Eurasian gray wolves migrated to North America multiple times in various forms, and those may be ancestors of different subspecies. The ancestors of the

## European Treefrog

• ORDER • Anura • FAMILY • Hylidae • SPECIES • *Hyla arborea*

This is the most common of Europe's two species of treefrogs, although it is now considered endangered in the northern parts of its range.



WHERE IN THE WORLD?  
Through mainland Europe (apart from southeastern Spain and southern France), down around the Caspian Sea, up to Denmark, but not extending to the British Isles.

**VITAL STATISTICS**  
Length: 1.5-2 cm (0.6-0.8in), with the males slightly larger than the females.

### SEXUAL MATURITY

1 year

### HABITAT-PERIOD

About 3 weeks; maturation completed after about 2 months later

### NUMBERS OF EGGS

200-300 in total, laid in smaller batches

### HABITAT

Relatively open country near water

### DIET

A variety of invertebrates, including flies

### LIFESPAN

3-5 years on average

## ANIMAL FACTS

European green treefrogs are found in wet areas rather than in dry woodland. They are quite at home on the leaves of reeds and other aquatic plants – if disturbed, they can jump down into the water to hide. Males call at the start of the breeding season, leading to a chorus as they compete against each other in song. Their calls resemble the quacking of a duck. These treefrogs hibernate in winter.

## CAMOUFLAGE

The frog may tuck down low to blend in more effectively against a leaf.

**TOKS**  
Toxic dioxins on the tips of the toes are offensive, helping these frogs to climb well.

**PATTERN**  
The dark stripe running through the eyes can vary in color from pale brown to black.



## Gray Wolf

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In North America, gray wolves used to have prey in abundance, but continue to have prey gray in abundance in their current range, unlike much of Europe.

Median wolves were likely in the first wave, followed by the Great Plains and finally the Mountain Valley wolves. These differences in subspecies reflect the gray wolves of Eurasia and North America. In general, North American wolves are more robust, with thicker fur, larger heads, shorter tails, and broader, more rounded ears.

The largest wolf species in North America, gray wolves were historically found throughout Alaska. They were numerous and controlled States except for coastal and central California and the Southeast. Intensive predator control efforts at the state and federal levels eliminated most gray wolves from the lower 48 states by the 1960s. By



Do you think these entries above are more interesting to read than the ones on the previous page? Why? What features can you see here?

- Labelled diagrams and photographs are used alongside text.
- Text is organised in columns or sections across the page.
- Headings and subheadings are being used.
- Key facts are given in an interesting way.

This [video](#) shows how you can make your information more interesting (even though it is on a different topic).

# Year 5- Writing an Encyclopaedia Entry



Wednesday

LI: I can edit and proofread my writing

## Proofreading and Editing

Like any good author, you must remember to always check your writing for any mistakes and edit it to make it even better. Brilliant writing takes time and lots of drafts!

Start by **proofreading**. This is where you are checking your writing for **spelling mistakes**, making sure **your grammar is correct** and that **your punctuation is accurate**. Your writing should be clear and easy to understand for someone else to read.

Make sure you read your writing aloud- it is much easier to hear mistakes. Ensure you read exactly what you have written, not what you think you have written!

Now it's time to **edit**. Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUScPnDwzPU&t=25s>

Remember to:

- Add- extra descriptive detail
- Take away- cross out words/ sentences you don't think are suitable
- Replace- change words/ phrases for better ones
- Aloud – read it aloud. How does it sound? Can you imagine what climbing the rock would have been like?

When you have done all of these, please read it to someone in your house.

What do they think? Does it sound like a piece of writing from an encyclopaedia? Are there any parts that are ambiguous? Refer back to the success criteria:

- Use a **range of sentence** constructions (long, detailed sentences contrasting with short sentences to keep the reader interested)
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Have they made any suggestions in ways to improve it? Do you agree? Will you make those changes?

When you are happy with your changes, redraft your writing. Remember to think about your handwriting and presentation.

When you are proud of the work you have produced, upload it to **Dropbox** and see if it can get into The 'One and only Ordinary Book that opens for Extraordinary Work'!

The Year 5 teachers are looking forward to reading your writing.

Enjoy Learning!