

FAUNA FACTS

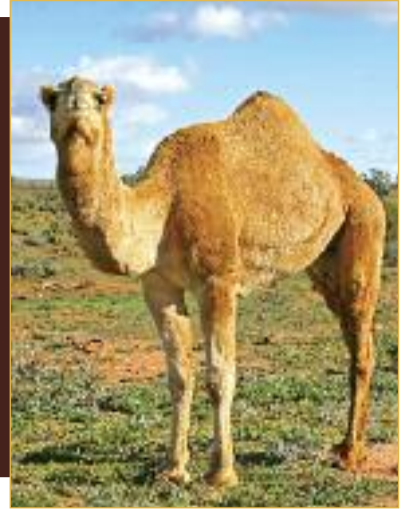
Why do giant pandas leave scent markings?

Scent is the primary mode of communication for giant pandas. Both males and females have a large gland, which they rub against surfaces to leave scent messages behind. These 'scent posts' allow pandas living in the area to become familiar with their neighbours, and to monitor the movement of other pandas. Studies have revealed that each panda has its own unique scent, and that pandas can distinguish between the scents of individuals.



Why do camels have humps?

Camels have humps on their backs to store fat. It is this fat that they use during the times when food and water are scarce. A well-fed camel in good condition has a firm, upright hump. After a long, exhausting desert journey the same camel will have a hump that is floppy and bent over to one side.



Why do bats hang upside down?

Bats hang upside down because it puts them in an ideal position for takeoff. Unlike birds, bats can't lift themselves into the air from the ground. Their wings don't produce enough lift to take off and their hind legs are so small and underdeveloped that they can't run to build up the necessary takeoff speed. Instead, they use their front claws to climb to a high spot, and then get into a flight.



Why crocodile tears?

This is an expression used when someone pretends to shed tears, because it was believed that crocodiles cannot cry as they lack tear ducts. However, the fact is that crocodiles possess lacrimal glands which secrete a proteinaceous fluid, just like in humans. But these 'tears' will only be visible if a crocodile is out of the water for a prolonged period of time, and its eyes begin to dry out. So, while crocodiles can and do generate tears, they do not actually cry.



Enormous Emus

ANIMAL KINGDOM

What is an Emu?

An Emu is the largest bird in Australia and the second largest in the world after the ostrich. Originally there were three species of emu, but now there is only one. The two other species became extinct because they were hunted for their meat and feathers.

sharp beaks and small ears. They have two sets of eyelids, one for blinking and one to keep out the dust. Their feet are long, with three toes. Emu feathers are soft and light-brown with dark tips. Emus can grow to between 5 to 6.5 feet in height and weigh up to 130 pounds.

What are its physical characteristics?

Emus have long necks,

What do emus eat?

Emus are mostly found in Australia and they feed on grains, flowers, berries, soft shoots, insects, grubs and

whatever else they can find. They even eat stones, dirt and tin cans by accident.

What are the unique features of this bird?

Emus are very docile and curious, and are easily tamed in captivity. They are extremely fast, and can even sprint at 30 miles per hour. Emus must drink water every day. On very hot days they breathe rapidly, using their lungs as evaporative coolers. Their large nasal passages have multiple folds inside. In cooler weather, they use these folds to recycle air and create moisture for reuse.

What is the significance of this bird?

The Emu, along with the Kangaroo, is featured on the Australian Coat Of Arms. These two animals were chosen for the honour because they cannot travel backwards and can only move forward.

