

Why Koala has a stumpy tail

Long ago Koala and Tree Kangaroo were good friends. Back then Koala had a long furry tail. This is the story of how Koala came to have a stumpy tail.

One year there was no rain and all the streams dried up. Water could not be found anywhere even the leaves on the trees were dying. Koala said to Tree Kangaroo "We will die too if it does not rain soon."

"I have an idea," said Tree Kangaroo, "When I was little, there was a very dry season. To find water my mother dug a hole in a dry streambed. She dug and dug for hours. At last water began to fill the bottom of the hole. There wasn't a lot of water but there was enough for both of us to have a good drink."

Koala cried "Let's try that. I can't wait to taste the cold water."

Koala and Tree Kangaroo went to a stream bed. It was as dry as the desert. 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, but the thought of the cool water kept him going. When Tree Kangaroo took a break and looked up Koala was sound asleep. Tree Kangaroo thought 'when Koala wakes up, he'll be well rested then he can take his turn'. So, Tree Kangaroo kept on digging. When Koala woke up Tree Kangaroo said, "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." So, Tree Kangaroo kept on digging.

The hole got deeper and deeper but still there was no water. "Koala!" yelled Tree Kangaroo, "I am worn out. I need a break."

Again, 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. At last some water appeared. "Koala it worked!" he shouted; Water is slowly filling the hole. Soon there will be enough for both of us."

When Koala heard this, he jumped down and rushed to the hole. He pushed Tree Kangaroo out of his way and Koala stuck his head into the water and began to gulp it down. Tree Kangaroo was furious. He called out "Save some for me!"

But Koala kept on drinking and drinking and drinking. Tree Kangaroo grabbed Koala's tail to pull him out of the hole. He yanked and yanked. At last Koala's tail broke off!

To this day koala's tail is short and stumpy and because Koala was lazy and selfish, he also lost a good friend.