

Wombat Facts

There are three species of wombats:

1. Bare-nosed or Common wombat is mainly found in coastal and highland regions of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. They live in woodlands and heathlands.
2. Southern hairy-nosed wombat is found in semi-arid regions in South Australia, tipping over into a tiny part of WA. They like flat sandy areas, sleep a lot and have longer ears.
3. Northern hairy-nosed wombat is found only in Epping National Park in Queensland. It is one of Australia's most endangered animals. It is estimated that there are only around 230 left in the wild and none in captivity.



The wombat in the book *The Snow Wombat* written by Susannah Chambers and illustrated by Mark Jackson is a common wombat.

Wombats are mammals. They drink milk from their mother.

Wombats are marsupials. They have pouches that open to the back end so they don't throw dirt into it while they are digging.

Wombats don't like hot weather. They live in cool areas. Many common wombats live in alpine forests that are covered in snow in winter.

Wombats are herbivores. They eat plants; mostly grass and roots. They like mosses. They have to dig through the snow to find the grass.

Wombats' teeth never stop growing because they get worn away eating the tough grass. They are the only marsupial with teeth that keep growing.

A baby wombat is called a joey. They are fully grown after they reach two years old. They can live up to about 14 years in the wild. They can grow to about 1 metre long.

Wombats can run up to 40 km per hour in short bursts.

Wombats have a very short tail that is hidden by fur.

Their scats or droppings are cube shaped. They mark their territory with their scats and can perch them up on rocks that round droppings would roll off.

They are strong diggers. Their burrows can be up to 20 metres long.

They are nocturnal and only come out when it is dark. In winter they come out during the day when it is warm for short periods of time.