The Laughing Kookaburra is one of five species of kookaburra in Australia. If you've been to the zoo, then you've probably heard our Kookaburra's funny call. All kookaburras are part of the kingfisher family, and the Laughing Kookaburra is the largest of all kingfishers. However, unlike most other kingfishers, laughing kookaburras are not often found near water and so don't eat much fish! Like many other Australian animals, the world kookaburra is derived from the Aboriginal name for the animal. Kookaburra comes from the Wiradjuri word "*guuguubarra"*, which mimics the sound of the bird's laugh!



Laughing kookaburras are native to the woodlands of eastern Australia but have been introduced to the western part of the country. They are carnivorous, eating reptiles, like small lizards, as well as rodents. They are also known to eat snakes, killing it by grabbing it by the head and repeatedly hitting it against the ground, a behavior called bashing.

- The stereotypical laughing call of the laughing kookaburra is a way for the bird to advertise their territory.
- Laughing kookaburras' mate for life and will nest in the same nest hole, either a tree hole or arboreal termite nest, every year.
- Laughing kookaburras live between 15-20 years in the wild.
- While it is a predator itself, the laughing kookaburra can become prey for animals like foxes and domestic cats.
- Female kookaburras are a little larger than the males, and have less blue on their rump feathers.

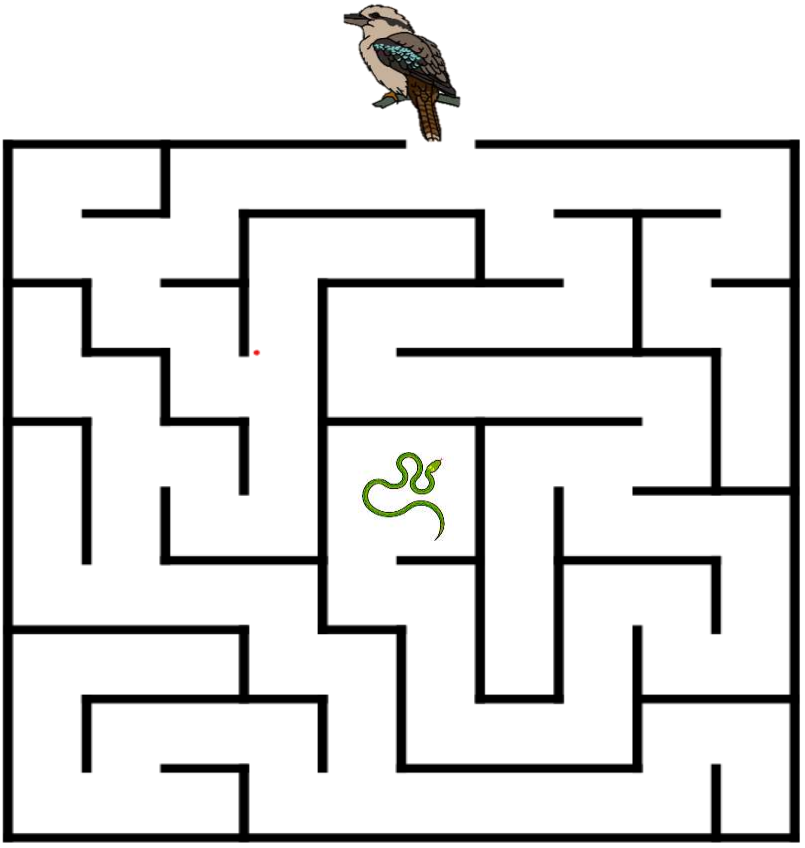
Laughing kookaburras were the inspiration for "The Kookaburra Song". Can you sing along?



Kookaburras usually have 2-3 eggs at a time, and they'll often stay with their parents for a few years, helping to raise the next year's chicks. Can you color in this kookaburra family?



Can you help the kookaburra fly to food?



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