

ALLIGATOR

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Alligators live in America. They are giant, intelligent reptiles directly descended from ancient crocodilians that were alive before the dinosaurs.



A for ALLIGATOR

1

The temperature of baby's nest determines if the baby alligator will be a boy or a girl.

A for ALLIGATOR

2

Alligators can live for a century. They can wait a year between meals.

A for ALLIGATOR

3

Alligators eat almost everything! Primarily they eat fish, small mammals and snakes.

A for ALLIGATOR

4

Alligators spend most of their time in the water. They swim by moving their tails back and forth like fish.

A for ALLIGATOR

5

Alligators are cold-blooded. We often see them sunning on logs or banks near water.

A for ALLIGATOR

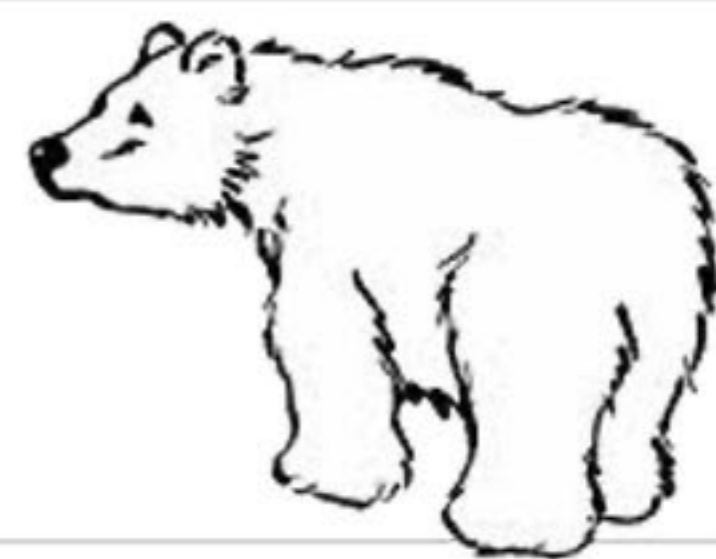
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Alligators can run very fast over short distances. Also, they are great swimmers.

BEAR

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Bears are fast runners, excellent swimmers and good climbers. They may look cute, but this animal is dangerous!



B for BEAR

1

Bears are solitary animals. Only mother and cubs live together.

Cubs love to play!
Playing teaches them hunting skills.

B for BEAR

2

Bears sleep all winter. This deep sleep is called hibernation. They don't eat and drink during this time.

B for BEAR

3

Everyone knows bears like honey! In fact, they eat plants, leaves, nuts and roots as well as insects, fish, birds and mammals.

B for BEAR

4

The skin of polar bears is black. This help them to absorb more of the heat from the sun.

B for BEAR

5

Koala bears aren't real bears. Like kangaroos, they have pouches in which they carry their babies.

B for BEAR

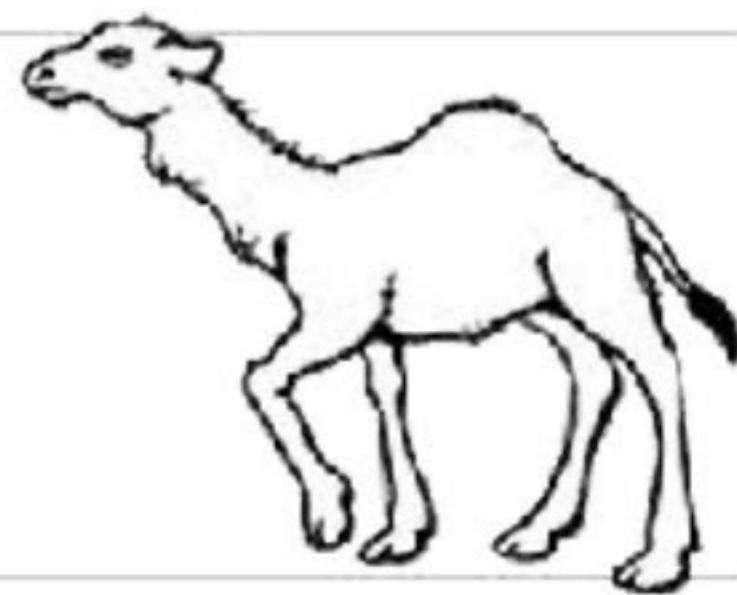
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Pandas can spend up to 16 hours a day feeding. They can eat more than 10 kilograms of bamboo a day!

CAMEL

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Camels are called *ships of the desert*. They have several adaptations that protect them during sandstorms. They are used for transport, milk, hides and wool.



C for CAMEL

1

A camel's hump stores fat not water. Fat is a source of energy when food is scarce. Babies are born without a hump.

C for CAMEL

2

Camels may not drink water for up six months. A thirsty camel can drink 100 litres of water in 10 minutes!

C for CAMEL

3

Camels have three stomachs. They chew their cud like cows. Most camels are fed by people. They eat grass and grain.

C for CAMEL

4

The camel is one of the oldest domesticated animals. People have been using them for more than 10,000 years.

C for CAMEL

5

The dromedary camel has one hump and long legs. It lives in the deserts of Arabia and Africa.

C for CAMEL

6

The bactrian camel has two humps and a very thick coat. It lives in Asia in areas that are mostly grasslands.

DOLPHIN

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Although they live in the water, dolphins are mammals, not fish. They are intelligent, playful creatures, friendly to humans.



D for DOLPHIN

1

A newborn dolphin is about a third as long as its mummy. A mother dolphin will stay with a calf for 2 to 3 years.

D for DOLPHIN

2

Dolphins are social animals. They live and hunt in groups. They help other sick dolphins as often as they can.

D for DOLPHIN

3

Dolphins use echolocation to navigate and hunt. They communicate with each other with clicks and whistles.

D for DOLPHIN

4

Dolphins eat fish, squid and small marine life. They don't chew their food. They use their teeth to catch their prey.

D for DOLPHIN

5

Dolphins can jump as high as 6 metres out of the water. Some of them can dive as deep as 300 metres.

D for DOLPHIN

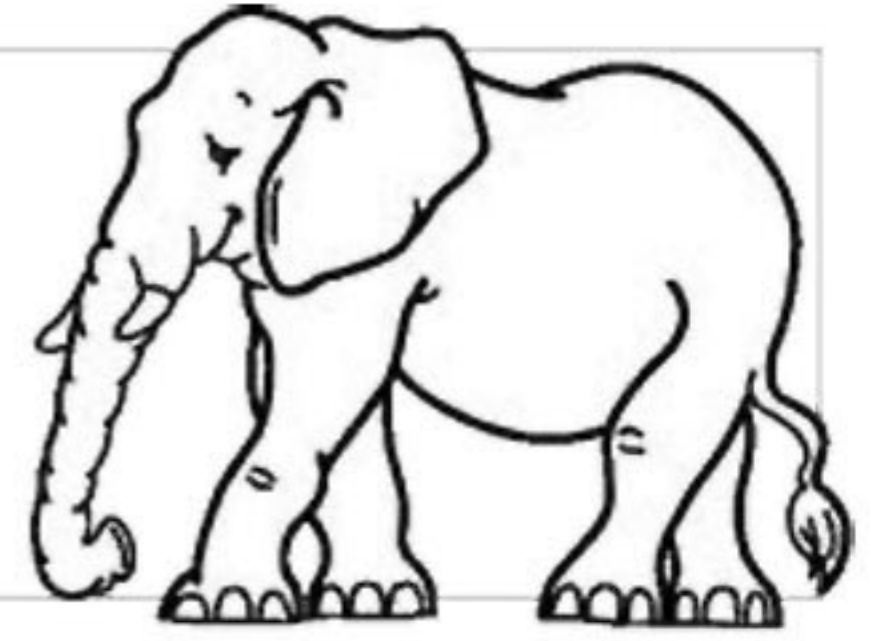
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Dolphins have large and complex brains. They are as intelligent as dogs. Being fast learners, they are able to generalize and learn human sign language.

ELEPHANT

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Elephants are the largest mammals in the world that live on land. They have a gentle personality, and are very sensitive and clever.



E for ELEPHANT

1

Elephants live in family groups. All the babies and females follow the oldest female elephant. The adult males live alone.

E for ELEPHANT

2

Elephants eat leaves, grass and tree barks. They can spend up to 16 hours a day looking for food.

E for ELEPHANT

3

Elephants can cry, laugh, have incredible memories, and are very intelligent. For example, they can recognize themselves in the mirror. Just few animals are able to do that.

E for ELEPHANT

4

The most amazing feature of the elephant is its long nose. The elephants use the trunk to eat, drink, touch and greet each other, and grab small items.

E for ELEPHANT

5

Asian elephants have smaller ears and tusks than African elephants. The tusks are made of ivory, which is very valuable.

E for ELEPHANT

6

The ears of the African elephant are about 1,5 m long. The elephants flap their big ears to cool themselves.

Fish live and breathe in water, have slimy bodies and are cold-blooded. There are many kinds of fish, some have bones, but others only cartilage.



F for FISH

1

Angelfish are brightly-coloured, flattened fish. They live in coral reefs in tropical seas, and are plant-eaters.

F for FISH

2

Eels have a long, snake-like body. Some of them can make electricity. Many eels migrate over long distances to breed or eat.

F for FISH

3

Goldfish have orange scales and long, flowing fins. They were domesticated over a thousand years ago by the Chinese.

F for FISH

4

Rays are very flat fish closely related to sharks. The biggest ray is the Manta Ray which is over 7 m long and weighs many tons.

F for FISH

5

Seahorses can change their colour to hide themselves. The male seahorse carries the eggs in his pouch until they hatch.

F for FISH

6

Not all sharks are meat-eaters and dangerous. The Whale Shark is the largest fish. It is up to 14 m long and weighs up to 15 tons.

GIRAFFE

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Giraffes, the tallest of the land animals, live in the savannas of Africa. They are well known for their long necks, long legs and spotted patterns.



G for GIRAFFE

1

Giraffes usually live in family troops of 2 to 6. While mothers feed, calves are kept in small nursery groups.

G for GIRAFFE

2

No two giraffes have the same pattern. They use their markings to hide themselves among trees.

G for GIRAFFE

3

Giraffes sleep only about a half an hour per day. They rarely lay down. They sleep and give birth standing up.

G for GIRAFFE

4

Giraffes are quite agile and can run very fast. They can moo, hiss, roar and whistle.

G for GIRAFFE

5

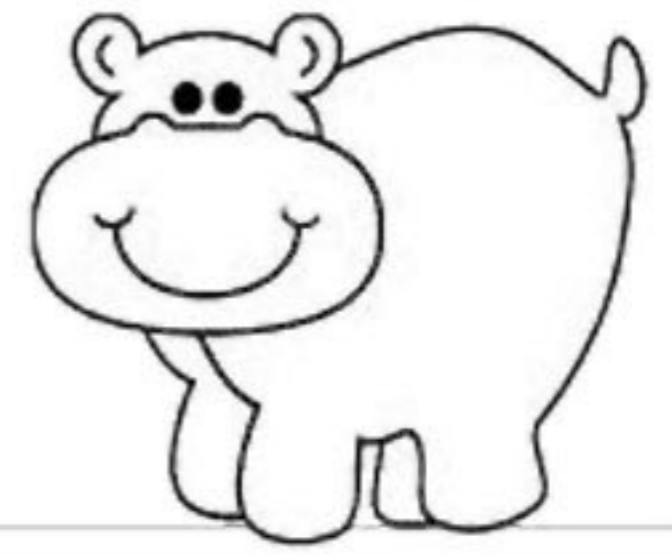
Giraffes can go for up two weeks without water. Their long necks help them eat leaves from acacia trees.

G for GIRAFFE

6

Giraffes have the largest eyes of any land mammal. A giraffe's tongue can extend almost 45 cm.

Hippos live in the rivers, lakes and swamps. They are the third largest African animal. Adult hippos have no natural enemy.



H for HIPPO

1

Baby hippos are usually born underwater. They learn to swim before they can walk.

H for HIPPO

2

Hippos spend most of their day in water. Being too heavy to swim, they navigate under water by walking on the bottom.

H for HIPPO

3

At night hippos leave the water. They walk to their favourite meadows and nibble on the grass.

H for HIPPO

4

A male hippo can weigh half a ton. Even though hippos are so big, they only eat plants, and can eat 45 kg grass every night.

H for HIPPO

5

The name hippopotamus comes from the Greek and means *river horse*. But the hippo is more closely related to the pig than the horse.

H for HIPPO

6

Hippos may look cute, but actually they are very dangerous. They can be extremely aggressive and unpredictable, especially if they feel threatened.

There are over 1 million different known species of insects in the world, and some experts estimate that there might be as many as 10 million!



I for INSECT

1

Ant colonies consist of males, females and workers. The queen ant has wings and can live up to ten years.

I for INSECT

2

Butterflies can see red, green and yellow. They have four wings and six legs. They test with their feet.

I for INSECT

3

Dragonflies have huge eyes and powerful jaws. The dragonflies are ancient insects, they were around before the dinosaurs.

I for INSECT

4

Flies are the only insects that have two wings. They don't grow, they are born full size.

I for INSECT

5

Our most common ladybird has seven spots. In many countries ladybirds are considered to be good luck.

I for INSECT

6

Only female mosquitoes feed on or bite humans. They prefer children to adults, and blondes to brunettes.

JELLYFISH

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Jellyfish have fish in their name, but they are not fish. They live in every ocean in the world, even in freshwater lakes too.



J for JELLYFISH

1

Jellyfish are made up mostly of water. They have no heart, no blood, no eyes, no bones, and even no brain.

J for JELLYFISH

2

Jellyfish are shaped like a bell or like an umbrella. Some of them can glow in the dark.

J for JELLYFISH

3

Jellyfish may be tiny or quite large. The smallest are the size of peas. The largest are 20 m in a diameter.

J for JELLYFISH

4

Jellyfish feed on small plankton animals. If there is not a lot of food around, they can shrink in size, so they need less food.

J for JELLYFISH

5

Jellyfish are extremely harmful creatures of the deep. They can sting and cause pain, and some of them can kill people.

J for JELLYFISH

6

Jellyfish are ancient creatures. They first appeared about 650 million years ago.

KANGAROO

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Kangaroos are the symbol of Australia. They appear on Australian postage stamps, coins, and even on Australian planes.



K for KANGAROO

1

Usually, kangaroos have one young annually. Females have a pouch in which babies live and drink milk for 8 months.

K for KANGAROO

2

There are over 50 types of kangaroo. They vary enormously in size. The biggest grow to 2 m, the smallest are 20 cm high.

K for KANGAROO

3

Kangaroos eat leaves, grass, herbs and roots. They need little water and can go for months without drinking.

K for KANGAROO

4

Kangaroos travel in groups. The leader dominates younger rivals by kicking, biting and boxing.

K for KANGAROO

5

Most kangaroos are active at night. The kangaroo moves by hopping. It uses its tail for balance.

K for KANGAROO

6

When European explorers first saw that animal, they asked an Aborigine what it was called. He replied: *Kangaroo*. They thought it was the animal's name, but this word meant: *I don't understand*.

Lions live in bush, grasslands, savannas and woodlands. The lion is a symbol of power, courage and nobility.



L for LION

1

Lions are the most social of all the cats and live in groups called prides. There can be up to forty members in a pride.

L for LION

2

In a pride, lions hunt prey, raise cubs, and defend their territory together. A cub may nurse other females as well as its mother.

L for LION

3

Hunting generally is done in the dark by lionesses. Males eat first, then females, and cubs last.

L for LION

4

A thirsty lion may drink for as long as 20 minutes. Most lions drink water daily if available, but can go four or five days without it.

L for LION

5

The main job of males is defending the pride's territory. A male's loud roar, usually heard after sunset, can carry for as far as eight kilometers.

L for LION

6

The term *King of the Beast* is misleading. A lion will run from many creatures, including elephants.

There are two types of monkeys: the Old World Monkey and the New World Monkey.



M for MONKEY

1

In baboon society, staring and showing teeth are considered a threat. Baboons have a number of calls: alarm is given by a dog-like bark.

M for MONKEY

2

Chimpanzees use tools to open nuts, to catch termites, and for drinking water. Also, they use large sticks and branches as clubs or throw them at enemies.

M for MONKEY

3

Gibbons spend most of their life in the trees. They cannot swim and avoid water. When on the ground, they walk on two legs.

M for MONKEY

4

Gorillas laugh when they are tickled, and cry when they are sad or hurt. They are very intelligent, for example they can learn to communicate in human sign language.

M for MONKEY

5

Macaques are found in Asia from Afghanistan to Japan. They are highly intelligent and display a great variety of calls and facial expressions.

M for MONKEY

6

Orangutans are highly intelligent with an ability to reason and think. The word orangutan means *man of the forest* in the Malay language.

Newts are brightly coloured salamanders. These small amphibians are found in moist, wooded areas in North America, Europe and Asia.



N for NEWT

1

Newts spend their lives near water. The newt's underbelly is usually yellow. Many newts have red spots along their sides.

N for NEWT

2

Newts are about 7 to 10 cm long. They have four fingers on each of the front legs and five toes on each of the hind legs.

N for NEWT

3

A newt's tail is flat on both sides. Newts have the ability to regenerate limbs, eyes and spinal cords.

N for NEWT

4

A newt's skin is always soft and moist.
They produce toxins in their skin secretions as a defence mechanism against predators.

N for NEWT

5

Newts eat insects, worms, snails, and small fish. A newt's prey must be moving in order to attract the newt.

N for NEWT

6

Newts eggs are laid in the water. Baby newts grow their front two legs first, instead of the back legs, like frogs.

Owls are mysterious birds. They like lonely places. In many countries the owl is a symbol of wisdom.



O for OWL

1

The mother owl lays her eggs 2-3 days apart. The father owl and mother owl sometimes take turns sitting on the eggs.

O for OWL

2

Owls sleep during the day and hunt during the night. They hunt and eat rodents, insects, frogs and birds.

O for OWL

3

Owls are silent in flight. They have the most highly developed sense of hearing of all birds.

O for OWL

4

Owls see mostly in black and white. Their large eyes face forwards. Other birds have eyes on the sides of their heads.

O for OWL

5

Owls have eyes that are ten times as light-sensitive as human eyes. They are short-sighted, so they can hunt near the ground.

O for OWL

6

Owls cannot move their eyes. Instead, they can turn their heads as much as 270 degrees to follow a moving object.

PENGUIN

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Penguins are birds, but unlike most birds they are not able to fly. They live in the southern half of the world. Many penguins are not afraid of people.



P for PENGUIN

1

Penguins are very social and live in colonies. They are very cute, very sturdy, and are excellent parents.

P for PENGUIN

2

A male penguin offers a pebble to a female penguin. If she takes it, they become partners. Some penguins don't build nests, instead they carry their eggs on their feet.

P for PENGUIN

3

To move quickly penguins flop on their bellies and slide. The legs and feet are set far back on the body, which gives them their upright posture on land.

P for PENGUIN

4

Penguins can't fly, but they are great swimmers. They use their wings like paddles to swim through the water.

P for PENGUIN

5

Feet are small so that penguins don't lose too much heat as they stand on the cold ice.

They help each other to stay warm: they gather together and keep shuffling around.

P for PENGUIN

6

Penguins eat seafood. Their main diet is fish and krill. Some penguins don't drink water. Instead they eat snow.

QUEEN BEE

© Pianetabambini.it

Honey bees are the only insects that produce a food consumed by humans. Honey is produced in one of the busiest yet most efficient factories in the world - a beehive.



Q for QUEEN BEE

1

Honey bees are social insects. A colony of honey bees includes a queen, drones and workers.

Q for QUEEN BEE

2

There is only one queen per beehive. She is the largest bee in the colony. The queen may live up to 5 years. She lays up to 2000 eggs per day.

Q for QUEEN BEE

3

All workers are females, but they are not able to reproduce. A colony can have 50,000 to 60,000 workers. They collect nectar to make honey.

Q for QUEEN BEE

4

Drones are male bees that have no stingers. If the colony is short on food, drones are often kicked out of the hive.

Q for QUEEN BEE

5

Honey bees dance to communicate direction and distance of flowers.

A bee visits between 50 and 100 flowers during one collection flight from the hive.

Q for QUEEN BEE

6

Bees have five eyes and four wings. Bees' wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.

RACCOON

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Raccoons are curious, intelligent and often troublesome mammals. They may be found in hollow trees, ground burrows and brush piles.



R for RACCOON

1

The raccoon is about the size of a small dog. They have a black mask over their eyes and a heavily furred, ringed tail.

R for RACCOON

2

Raccoons give birth to 2-6 kits at one time. A baby raccoon's eyes do not open until about three weeks.

R for RACCOON

3

Raccoons are great climbers. You can see them high in the branches of a tree on a moonlit night.

R for RACCOON

4

Raccoons prefer wooded areas. They are nocturnal, but sometimes they are active during the day.

R for RACCOON

5

Raccoons live between one and three years. They eat almost anything available. Their diet includes animals, fruits, nuts and grass.

R for RACCOON

6

Raccoons dip their food in water. They grasp and rub it in a way that makes them look like they are washing their food.

Seals are marine mammals. There are lots of kinds of seals. Scientists group them into three main types: true seals, eared seals, and walruses.



S for SEAL

1

Most seals live in cold water. They spend their time in the sea, but also enjoy sunbathing on rocks or on the beach.

S for SEAL

2

Seals have flippers at the ends of their arms and legs to help them swim. Some seals can swim as fast as 40 km per hour; others can dive down deeply.

S for SEAL

3

Seals don't walk well on land. Some seals use their flippers to slide across ice. They can slide along as fast as 25 km per hour!

S for SEAL

4

Seals have very good vision in water. The eye must focus in both air and water, so it is very large and round.

S for SEAL

5

Seals hear very well in both water and air. Females and pups often call to each other. Seals may snort, hiss, growl, or sneeze.

S for SEAL

6

Seals have a keen sense of smell in air, which allows them to detect predators. Most seals eat fish, squid and krill.

TIGER

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Tigers are the biggest cats in the world. They live in steamy hot jungles as well as icy cold forests.



T for TIGER

1

Tiger cubs are born blind and weigh only about 1 kg. They live with their mother until they are two to three years old, then they find own territories.

T for TIGER

2

Adult tigers like to live alone. In the forest a single tiger can sneak up its prey better than a group of tigers can.

T for TIGER

3

A tiger can eat as much as 40 kg of meat in one feeding. Tigers may drag their prey to water to eat.

T for TIGER

4

Tigers can see in colour. They can also see in the dark six times better than humans can.

T for TIGER

5

A tiger's tail is about half as long as its body. Tigers use their tails for balance when they run, and to communicate with other tigers.

T for TIGER

6

Scientists think that stripes act as camouflage. The stripes are like human fingerprints. No two tigers have the same pattern of stripes.

UNICORN

© Pianetabambini.it

Unicorns are one-horned mythical creatures that can be associated with all kinds of mythology.



U for UNICORN

1

The unicorn is a legendary creature embodied like a horse.

U for UNICORN

2

Everybody has different theories about these magnificent beasts.

U for UNICORN

3

Some people say that they can run silently through forests covered with leaves.

U for UNICORN

4

Others say that their horn when placed on a wound heals the wound.

U for UNICORN

5

Their hair looks like pure satin, especially when exposed to sunlight.

U for UNICORN

6

Well, now that we have seen each other, said the Unicorn, if you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you.

Lewis Carroll

Vipers are weird creatures. They can move without legs, and can cause sickness or death with a single bite.



V for VIPER

1

Vipers are heavy-bodied, poisonous snakes. They range in size from under 30 cm to nearly 2 m and often have zigzag or diamonds patterns.

V for VIPER

2

Vipers don't see and hear well. They have no eyelids and no external ear openings.

V for VIPER

3

Can vipers hypnotize people and animals? The myth probably arose because of the way snakes stare without moving.

V for VIPER

4

Tree Vipers are long, thin and very light. They eat frogs, lizards and small mammals.

V for VIPER

5

Gabon Vipers live in Africa. Because of their colouration, they are hard to spot.

V for VIPER

6

The Eyelash Viper is a nocturnal snake. It is one of the smallest poisonous snakes in America, but one of the most dangerous.

WHALE

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Whales are large, intelligent animals. They are not fish, they are mammals that spend their entire lives in the water.



W for WHALE

1

Whales swim by moving their tails up and down. Fish swim by moving their tails left and right.

W for WHALE

2

Some whales are lungers. They take in huge gulps of water and fish at the same time.

W for WHALE

3

Some whales are skimmers. They swim along with their mouths open, and strain the water out before they swallow their fish dinner.

W for WHALE

4

The Blue Whale is the largest animal on Earth. Its heart is as big as a car, and its tongue is as long as an elephant.

W for WHALE

5

Beluga Whales can sing. They are called sea canaries, because that's what their songs sound like.

W for WHALE

6

Grey Whales make the longest seasonal migration. They travel about 12,500 miles each year.

Foxes are the smallest member of the dog family. They have characteristics of both dogs and cats, and are nocturnal animals.



X in FOX

1

The Red Fox is the most common species of the foxes. It lives in Europe, North America, Australia, Asia, and the Arctic.

X in FOX

2

Newborn cubs weigh 100 grams each, are blind and deaf, and can't walk. Their mother must stay with them, their father brings food back for her to eat.

X in FOX

3

Foxes are mainly nocturnal animals. They are most active in the early morning hours and during the early hours of darkness.

X in FOX

4

The fox has a very keen sense of sight, hearing and smelling. Being predators, they use their senses to stalk their prey with stealth and patience.

X in FOX

5

The fox is a solitary animal. It usually hunts alone, rather than in packs like wolves or dogs.

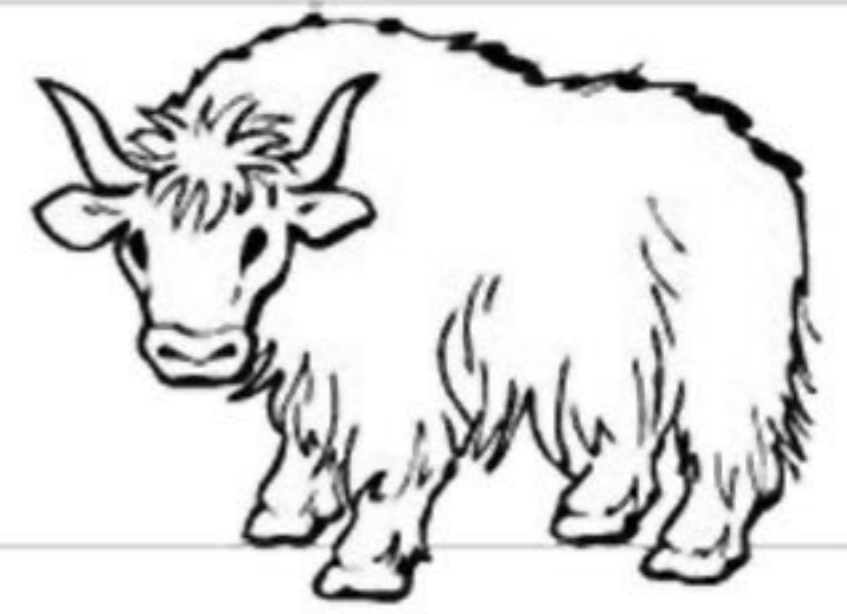
X in FOX

6

Foxes eat almost anything, their diet depends on where they live.

Foxes from the countryside eat hares, earthworms, beetles, birds' eggs, and fallen fruit.

Yaks originate in the Himalayan Mountains, and have been domesticated for about 5000 years.



Y for YAK

1

Yaks have great balance and never fall down. People use them for packing, riding, milking, clothing, ropes, tents, fuel for the fire, and meat.

Y for YAK

2

Only a few hundred yaks are left in the wild. Wild and tame yaks don't like each other. If they meet, the wild ones may attack.

Y for YAK

3

Domestic yaks come in a variety colours from white to brown. Their fur is thick. They can easily live in temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero.

Y for YAK

4

Yaks are intelligent animals each with its own personality. They learn to come when called and have highly developed sense of sight and hearing.

Y for YAK

5

Yaks weigh about 100 kg. They eat grass, shrubs, herbs, lichens, leaves, twigs, grain, and hay.

Y for YAK

6

Yaks generally live 20 - 25 years. They make a grunting sound when agitated, hungry, or calling their calves.

ZEBRA

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There are three species of Zebra, all native to the African continent. They differ slightly in their stripes, but all have the same general shape.



Z for ZEBRA

1

There are different types of zebras, but they all have stripes. Each zebra has its unique stripe pattern, like human fingerprints.

Z for ZEBRA

2

Zebras usually live in small family groups called *herds*. The leader of the herd stays at the back of the group to defend against predators.

Z for ZEBRA

3

Zebra foals are dark brown and white at birth. They can walk just 20 minutes after they are born, and can run after an hour!

Z for ZEBRA

4

Zebras can run at speeds of up to 50 km an hour. A zebra's eyesight at night is as good as that of a cat or an owl.

Z for ZEBRA

5

Zebras are very dependent on water. They usually need to drink every day, so they do not wander far from water holes.

Z for ZEBRA

6

Zebras can communicate with each other. Ears flat back, for example, means the zebra is annoyed, uncomfortable or angry.