

Primary Worksheets: Hippopotamus



The hippopotamus, or hippo for short, is a large mammal and one of the most dangerous animals where they live.

They spend most of their time in lakes or streams. Their name means 'river horse'.

Hippos are the third largest mammal on Earth, behind the rhinoceros and the elephant.

They have hair and give birth to young life. Hippos feed their babies with milk, making them mammals!



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A group of hippos are known as a herd. The male is called a bull and the female is called a cow. A baby hippo is called a calf.

Hippos are land animals despite spending most of their time living in water. They rest in the water when they are feeling hot or need to stay cool.

They usually stay in the water during the day and come out to eat once the sun starts going down.



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Hippos are herbivores, meaning that they only eat plants. They mainly eat grass and can spend hours a day grazing. They can eat over 50kg of grass each day!

Hippos are so large and strong that there are few predators that hunt or attack them. Lions and crocodiles tend to try and hurt the young hippos.

Hippos are aggressive and will attack anything or anyone that is trying to hurt or threaten them.



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Answer the questions.

What is a hippopotamus?

Where can we find them?

What are known as?



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Answer the questions.

What do they eat?

Do they have many predators?

Are hippos friendly?

