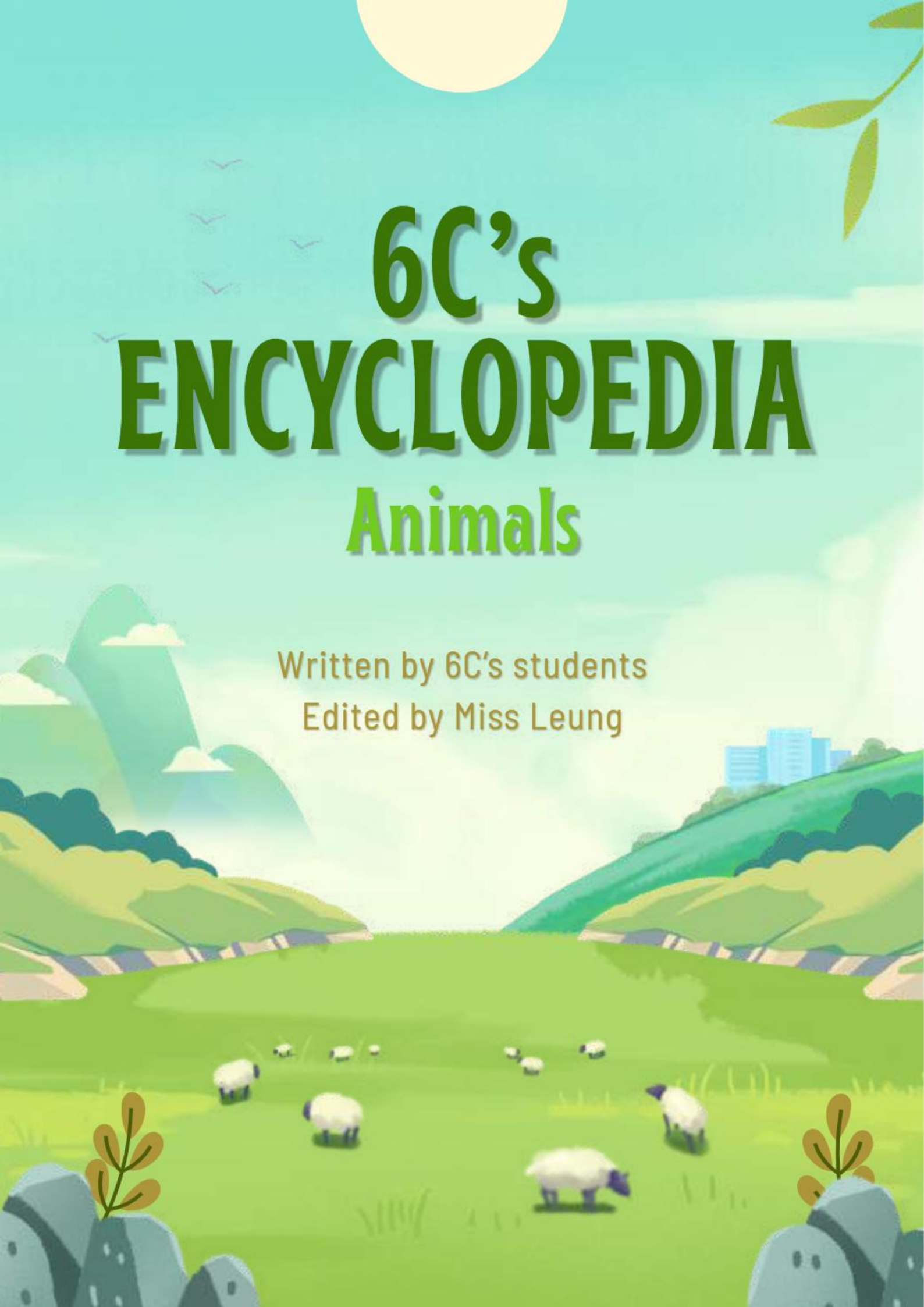




6C's ENCYCLOPEDIA Animals

Written by 6C's students
Edited by Miss Leung



Fox

There are about 12 species of foxes, with the Red Fox being the most common. Although they look like small dogs, foxes are quite unique. They live on every continent except Antarctica. Foxes are mammals and are known for being very resourceful and adaptable to different environments.



Size and weight

The Fennec fox is the smallest species. It is about 20 centimetres tall and weighs just 1 to 1.5 kilograms. The Red fox is the largest species. It can grow up to 50 centimetres tall and weighs between 6 and 14 kilograms. Their bushy tails, also called brushes, can be 30 to 50 centimetres long.

Pointy ears

Long snout

Bushy tail / Brush



Diet

Foxes are omnivores, which means they eat almost anything. Their diet includes small rodents, birds, frogs, and insects, but they also enjoy eating fruits and berries.



Behaviour

Foxes are usually nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night. They are solitary hunters and prefer to live and hunt alone. They are famous for their intelligence.



Do you know

A female fox is called a vixen, and a male is called a dog. A group of foxes is called a skulk. Baby foxes are known as pups or kits.





Tigers



Tigers are highly adaptable apex predators found in a diverse range of habitats across Asia, including tropical rainforests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and coniferous forests, stretching from India to Russia. They require dense cover, water, and abundant prey. Today, their range is fragmented and covers only about 7% of their historic distribution, with major populations in India, Nepal, Southeast Asia, and the Russian Far East.

Appearance

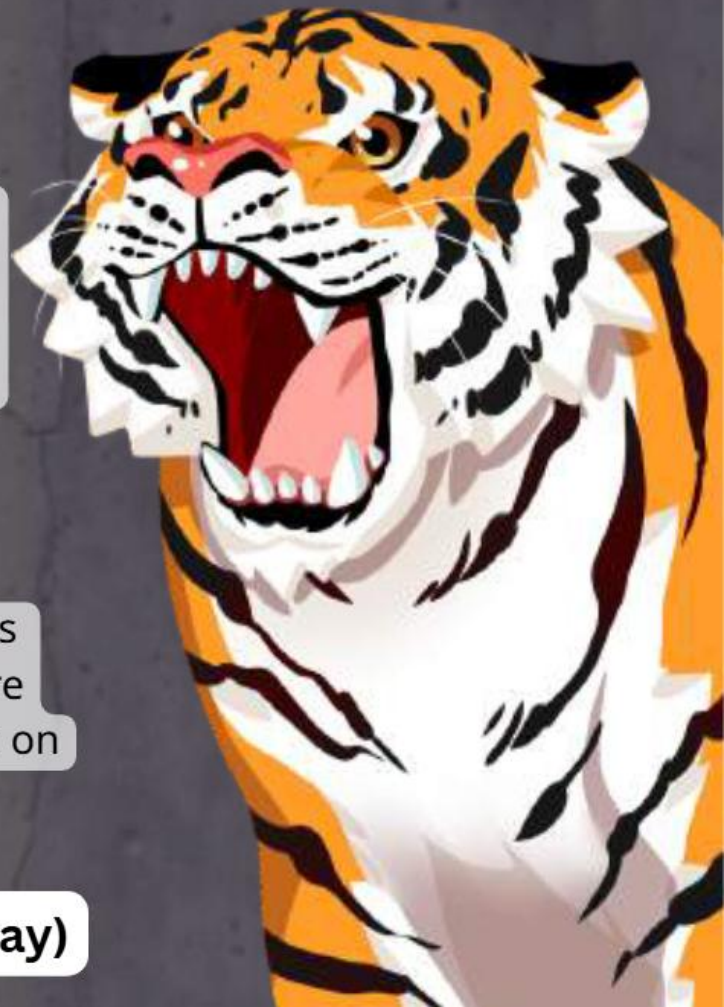
They are the world's largest wild cats, recognized by their reddish-orange coats, white underbellies, and unique, dark vertical stripes, which exist on both skin and fur. They possess a powerful, muscular build with large, sharp, 3- to 4-inch claws and the longest canines of any big cat, measuring up to 10cm.

Diet

They are apex, solitary carnivores that primarily hunt large ungulates like deer and wild boar at night using stealth and ambush tactics. They require about 9 kg of meat daily, often consuming up to 50 kg in one meal.

Life cycle

Their life cycle spans roughly 10–15 years in the wild (up to 26 in captivity). Cubs are born helpless and blind, fully dependent on their mother for roughly two years.



Penguin

Although most people believe that penguins live in Antarctica, many species, such as rockhopper penguins, inhabit sub-Antarctic islands, Argentina, Chile, and New Zealand.

Diet

Penguins usually eat krill, squid and fish.



Reproduction

Most penguins nest and breed on land or ice, while emperor penguins can even raise their chicks in the extreme cold of the Arctic.

Fun Facts

Penguins vary greatly in size; the largest, the Emperor Penguin, weighs over 30 kilograms, while the smallest, the Little Blue Penguin, weighs only 1 kilogram.





Cow



There are more than 1,000 species of cow. Most of them live in the open the grassland and a few live in wetlands. They are mammals, they give birth to young ones, they feed their babies with milk, their eyelashes are very long.

Diet

Cows eat different fresh pastures such as wolftail grass, pangu grass, alfalfa grass.

Size and Weight

The smallest cow is Vechur(a kind of cow in Kerala). It is about 100 to 150 kilograms. The largest species is Chianina. It is about 1,200 to 1,500 kilograms.

Behaviour

The eyes of cows grow on both sides of the head, which allows them to have a viewing angle of up to 300 to 330 degrees. When they bow their heads to eat grass, the view can even be close to 360 degrees, and they can see almost everything behind them.

Do you know?

Cow can remember more than 100 faces of the same kind or human. If you are kind to him, he will remember you for a long time; on the contrary, if you are not good to him, he will also hold a grudge.



EAGLES

EAGLES, A LARGE, FIERCE BIRD USUALLY FLYING ABOVE HILLS AND TREES. THEIR SPECIES CAN BE UP TO 68. PLUS, THEY CAN BE AS TALL AS 2.3 METERS LIKE THE PHILIPPINES EAGLE. BUT NORMALLY, THEY ARE ABOUT 40~100 CM. AND THEY ARE ABOUT 2.7~6.5 KG HEAVY.

EAGLE'S LIFE HABITS

EAGLE'S DIETS ARE USUALLY RABBITS, HARES AND GROUND SQUIRRELS SINCE THEY ARE CARNIVOROUS APEX PREDATORS. AND, EAGLES PREFER OPEN OR SEMI-OPEN LANDSCAPES WITH GOOD VISIBILITY AND ACCESS TO PREY.

EAGLE'S DETAILED INFORMATION

AN ADULT EAGLE HAS APPROXIMATELY 7000 FEATHERS WHICH MAKES THEM HAVE MORE FLIGHT EFFICIENCY SINCE THEYLL HAVE MORE CONTROL.

FUN FACT!

Their vision is estimated to be 4 to 8 times sharper than a human's. They can detect prey from over 2 miles (3.2 km) away.

Platypus



The platypus lives in Australia. It is a very special animal with a beak like a duck and a tail like a beaver.



What Makes It Special?

The platypus lays eggs. It uses its beak to find food in the water. The boy platypus has little spikes with poison.

Home and Life

Platypuses live in holes by rivers and streams. They swim well, and they look for bugs and worms to eat.

Fun Facts

- The platypus is a mammal, but it lays eggs.
- People once thought it was not real!
- On land, it walks by folding its webbed feet.
- Underwater, it closes its eyes and ears.
- A baby platypus is called a "puggle".



ABOUT PIGEONS



KEY FACTS ABOUT PIGEONS:

- Diet: They primarily eat seeds and grains but adapt to urban diets, including food scraps.
- Behavior: They are very social, often seen in flocks, and are known to navigate using magnetic fields and landmarks.
- Appearance: Typically have soft gray/brown feathers with iridescent neck patches.
- Reproduction: They mate for life and both parents help raise young.

FUN FACTS ABOUT PIGEONS

Pigeons are remarkably intelligent, fast-flying birds capable of speeds up to 90 mph, navigating via Earth's magnetic fields, and recognizing themselves in mirrors. Often the first domesticated bird, they have thrived alongside humans for thousands of years, acting as war heroes and producing "crop milk" to feed their young.

Giraffe



is a giant

- World Record Holders: They are the tallest animals on land.
- High-Level Dining: Their height lets them eat leaves from the very tops of trees that other animals can't reach.
- Built for Height: Their bodies have special "upgrades" (like extra-strong hearts) to help them live life at the top.
- The Savannah Advantage: Because they can reach the highest food, they have less competition for meals.

Size and weight

- Tallest Land Animal: Males can reach heights of up to 5.5 metres (18 feet).
- Unique Fingerprints: No two giraffes have the same coat pattern; they are as unique as human fingerprints.
- The "Camel-Leopard": Their scientific name comes from the Ancient Greek word camelopardalis, because people thought they looked like a cross between a camel and a leopard.



Amazing Biology

Super Heart: To pump blood nearly 2 meters vertically to the brain, a giraffe's heart is exceptionally strong and its blood pressure is twice that of a human.





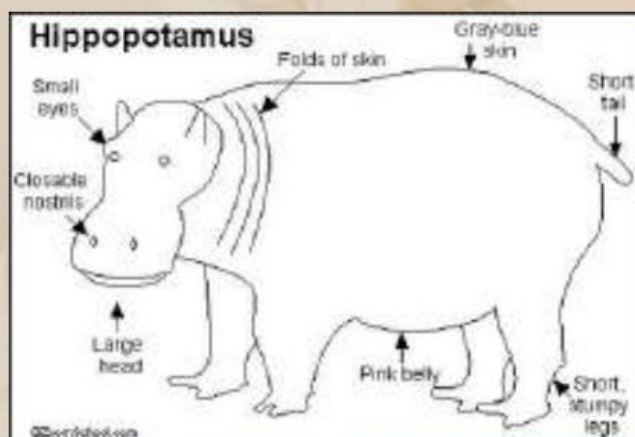
Hippo

There are two species of hippo, which are *Hippopotamus amphibius* and *Choeropsis liberiensis*.

Size and weight

Choeropsis liberiensis is between 180kg to 275kg. Its length ranges from 155cm to 175cm.

On the other hand, *Hippopotamus amphibius*'s length is around 3.3m to 5m, it is bigger.



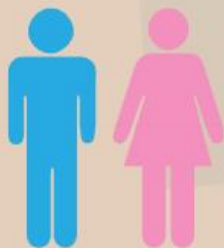
Diet

Hippos are large herbivorous mammals, and they eat meat.



Behaviour

Hippos are highly territorial, semi-aquatic mammals found in sub-Saharan Africa. They live in pods, with males defending water territory and females forming strong bonds.



Do you know?

Hippos possess unique adaptations, including producing a natural red, oily substance that acts as sunscreen and antibacterial lotion, often called "blood sweat".



Monkey

There are more than 260 known species of monkeys in the world. Most monkeys primarily inhabit tropical rainforests. Monkeys are mammals. They usually eat nuts, flowers and insects.

Size and weight

Monkeys vary greatly in size and weight depending on the species. The smallest monkey size and weighs only about 100 grams and 11.7 to 16 cm, while the largest can exceed 35 kilograms and 115cm.

Diet



Most monkeys are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and meat. Their diets are very diverse and vary depending on their habitat, species, and season. They usually eat fruit, nuts, seeds and insects.

Behaviour

Monkeys exhibit a rich variety of behaviors and are highly social, displaying many similarities to humans, from complex communication skills to deep emotional bonds.



Do you know

Formosan macaques live in a matriarchal society. It's up to the girls to decide.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

FLAMINGO

THE SPECIES OF FLAMINGOS

There are 6 species of flamingos in the world. And the most common is Greater Flamingo and it approximately 680,000 birds in the world.



BASIC THING ABOUT FLAMINGOS

Only 1 egg per year. Most females lay a single egg each nesting season. And their incubation takes about 27 to 31 days for the egg to hatch.



INTERESTING THING ABOUT FLAMINGOS

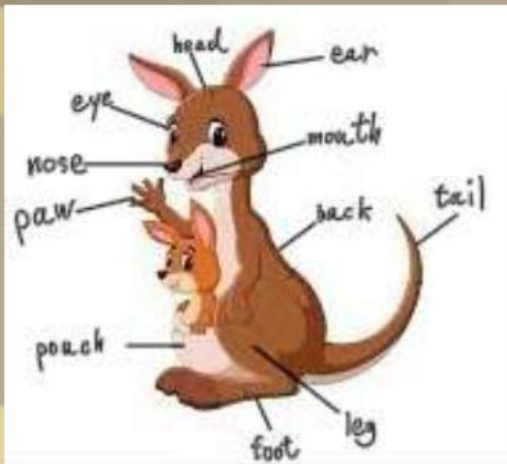
Both male and female flamingos produce a substance called "crop milk" to feed their chicks. It contains so much fat and protein that it looks like bright red blood.

Parents feed their chicks so much of this "milk" that they actually lose their own pink color, turning pale or white during the breeding season because they are giving all their pigments to their babies.



Kangaroo

A kangaroo is a big hopping animal from Australia. There is over 60 species of it. It has strong back legs, a long tail for balance, and big ears. Most kangaroos carry their baby in a pouch on the mother's belly.



Size and weight

The smallest kangaroo is Musky rat-kangaroo. It is about 15-20 cm tall and weights 0.5-1 kg.

The largest kangaroo is Red kangaroo. It is about 1.6-2.0 m tall and weights 55-90 kg.

Diet

Although kangaroo is strong, they only eat plants : grass, leaves, fruit, flowers ..



Do you know

A punch of kangaroo is powerful so do not try to fight with a kangaroo.

=



The cheetah is the fastest land mammal in the world and belongs to the cat family. It can be divided into 4 subspecies.

Cheetah



Feature

They are "big cats," and cheetahs don't roar. They growl when threatened, communicate with chirping or bird-like calls, and bark during social interactions. Cheetahs are also one of the few felines that can sustain a purring sound while inhaling and exhaling.



Adult Cheetah

Adult cheetahs typically weigh between 75 and 125 pounds. Their body length from head to hindquarters is approximately 40 to 60 inches, and with the tail, the total length can reach 24 to 32 inches, or up to 7.5 feet. A cheetah's shoulder height is approximately 28 to 36 inches.

Do you know

A mother cheetah usually cares for anywhere from 2 to 8 cubs per litter, but cubs are often the target of other predators and many do not survive past the first year



Deer



Habitats

Deer live in many different places like forests, grasslands, and even near people's homes where they can find food and safety.

Size and weight

The weight of cervids varies significantly across species, ranging from the pudu, which weighs as little as 3 kilograms; the moose, which can exceed 800 kilograms.



CROCODILE



It is a typical large carnivore. Distributed in tropical to subtropical rivers, lakes and coasts, there are 25 species.

THE SIZE AND WEIGHT

The size and weight of crocodiles vary from breed to species. Adult male crocodiles are usually 3.5 to 5 metres long (11-16 feet) and weigh 225 to 750 kilograms, and extreme individuals can even exceed 6 metres and more than 1,000 kilograms.



DIET

Young crocodile diet: mainly eat insects, snails, shrimps and crabs, and also eat small fish in the later stage. Adult crocodile diet: fish, turtles.

Peacock



A peacock is a brightly colored bird. The male peacock has long feathers with colorful patterns. It uses its feathers to look attractive and impress other peacocks.

Lifespan

In the wild, peacocks typically live for 15 to 20 years, but they can survive for up to 40 or 50 years in captivity with proper care.

Diet

Peacocks are omnivorous birds that feed on a diverse diet of seeds, fruits, and grains, supplemented by insects, worms, and even small reptiles like snakes.

Fun facts: They Can Fly !

Despite having a train that can reach up to 6 feet long and make up 60% of their body length, peacocks are perfectly capable of flight. They typically only fly to escape predator or to roost in trees at night for safety.

Owl



What is an Owl?

Owls are nocturnal birds of prey distinguished by their upright stance, binocular vision, and sharp talons. There are over 200 known living species, ranging from the tiny Elf Owl to the large Eurasian Eagle Owl.



Distinctive Features

Owls have large forward-facing eyes and ears, a flat face, and specialized feathers for silent flight. Many have a **facial disc** that helps funnel sound.



Global Distribution

Found on every continent except Antarctica, owls have adapted to forests, grasslands, tundra, and even deserts.



Masters of the Night

Most owls are **nocturnal** and have excellent night vision. Their feathers allow for near-silent hunting.



Diet & Hunting

Owls typically feed on small mammals, insects, and other birds. They can swivel their heads up to 270° to track their prey!



BEARS



What is a bear?

- **Family:** Ursidae
- **Order:** Carnivora (though most are not pure carnivores)
- **Number of species:** 8 living species worldwide.
- **Key relatives:** Dogs, raccoons, and weasels (they share a common ancestor).

Living habits & diets

Mainly salmon, berries, roots, nuts, ground squirrels, moose calves

Shelter: Rock crevices, caves, hollow logs, or tree roots.

Population, Weight & Lifespan

Population: 200,000+

Weight: 135 – 635 kg (300 – 1,400 lbs)

Typical lifespan: 20 – 25 years

Max lifespan: 40 years

!FUN FACT!

A bear can outrun a horse! Grizzly bears can sprint at 35–40 mph (56–64 km/h) — faster than Usain Bolt's top speed (27 mph) and faster than a racehorse (30 mph).



WHALE: THE GIANT OF THE OCEAN



LIFESPAN

Normal whale may live for 20-40 years

WEIGHT

100000-200000kg

WHAT DO THEY EAT

Krill, Small squid



FUN FACT

Whales sleep vertically! They hang motionless near the ocean's surface in groups, suspended head-up and tail-down like massive floating pillars. They take short 10-15 minute naps in this position.

WHY ARE WHALES ENDANGERED?

Main reason:
Chemical pollutants

Human activities:
Ship strikes, Entanglement

HELP
ME!



Snake



Snakes are a type of legless reptile, a general term for the suborder **Serpentes**, belonging to the class **Reptilia**, and an evolutionary branch of **lizards**. Snakes are covered in scales. All snakes are **carnivorous**.

The Flicking Tongue: Snakes don't "taste" food; they use their forked tongues to collect scent molecules from the air and process them via the Jacobson's organ in the roof of their mouth.

All snakes are carnivorous, feeding primarily on lizards, small mammals, birds, fish, eggs, other snakes, snails, and some insects. Because snakes cannot bite or tear their food into pieces with their teeth, they must swallow their prey whole.

The size of a snake directly affects the size of its prey; young snakes only eat smaller prey. For example, juvenile pythons may initially only eat lizards or rodents, but as they grow, they can eat fawns or antelopes to make it easier to swallow them.

Snakes have some of the most resilient jawbones among animals. Their lower jaw is quite flexible, and the jaws do not meet firmly. With the help of many joints around the skull, snakes can open their jaws wide enough to swallow their entire prey, even if the prey is larger than the snake itself. The snake can swallow its prey without chewing.

For example, an oviparous snake can swallow an egg that is larger than its own head and body. Egg-eating snakes have no teeth, but they have bony spikes on the inside of their that can crush the eggshells inside their bodies to make it easier to swallow them.





Frog



Classification: Order Anura. There are roughly 7,000+ described species grouped into many families (e.g., Ranidae — true frogs; Hylidae — tree frogs; Bufonidae — true toads).

Anatomy and appearance

Body adapted for jumping: strong, long hind legs and webbed feet in many species.

Smooth or warty skin that is permeable to water and gases (important for respiration).

Bulging eyes with a wide field of view and a sticky tongue for catching prey.

No tail in adults (distinguishes them from salamanders).



Respiration

Breathe through lungs and across their skin (cutaneous respiration). Wet skin is necessary for efficient gas exchange.

Life cycle

Most species have an aquatic egg and tadpole stage. Tadpoles are typically herbivorous or detritivorous, breathe with gills, and gradually metamorphose into adults (develop legs, reabsorb tail, form lungs). Some species show direct development (eggs hatch into small froglets) or unusual reproductive strategies (foam nests, carrying eggs on back, internal fertilization in a few species).



Cats

Cats are small, carnivorous mammals, often kept as popular household pets. Known for their agility, soft fur, and independent nature, they are highly skilled predators. They communicate through purring, meowing, and body language



Cats are animals that love to sleep. They spend most of their time sleeping to conserve energy, and they especially like to rest in warm, dry places during the day.



Cats are very clean animals and habitually lick their fur and limbs to remove dirt and parasites.



Cats are territorial and mark their territory by scratching and using urine.



Sloth

Sloths move very slowly, at only 4 meters per minute, and only 2 meters per minute on the ground. If they accidentally fall to the ground, they are easy prey for other carnivores; however, they are capable of swimming.

This slowness is not only to conserve energy, but also to avoid the sight of predators such as harpy eagles, which are extremely sensitive to subtle movements.

Size and weight

The size and weight of sloths vary depending on the species.

Extant sloths are mainly divided into two categories:

two-toed sloths and three-toed sloths.

Two-toed Sloths: Slightly larger.

Body length: approximately 46 to 86 cm.

Weight: approximately 4 to 8 kg.

Three-toed Sloths: Smaller and lighter.

Body length: approximately 41 to 70 cm.

Weight: approximately 2.25 to 5.5 kg.

Diet

Sloths are primarily herbivores, feeding mainly on leaves, buds, and fruits of trees. However, their diets vary slightly depending on the species.

Do you know

Sloths spend almost their entire lives in trees, including sleeping, mating, and even giving birth.

Pandas



Pandas is a kind of bear with white and black fur. It lives in mountains between 1200-3600 meters.

Diet

Pandas are carnivorous. However, they normally eat bamboo. Sometimes, pandas will eat other food such as bamboo rats.



Habitats

Pandas live in Sichuan, Shanxi and Gansu. They like to live in bamboo forests which are wet.

Life circle

In the wild, giant pandas typically live for 14 to 20 years, but they can reach 30 years or more in captivity.

Fun facts

Pandas have an extra thumb to help itself break bamboos.

Habits

Giant pandas are typical solitary animals. They are highly territorial and prefer to live alone, marking their space to avoid others except during the breeding season.



Protection

China has established 67 nature reserves that protect over 60 percent of the wild panda. Protecting their essential bamboo forest habitats.

