

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus facts

The hippopotamus is the third largest living land mammal after the elephant and rhinoceros. "Hippo" comes from an ancient Greek word meaning 'river horse'. Hippos have very thick smooth skin and are nearly hairless. Hippos are semi-aquatic, which means they live on land and in water. They spend the day in rivers, lakes and swamps, but emerge at dusk to graze on grass. Hippos are one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. They can outrun a human on land and their long sharp canine teeth or tusks can bite a boat in half. Hippos can stay under water for up to 6 minutes.

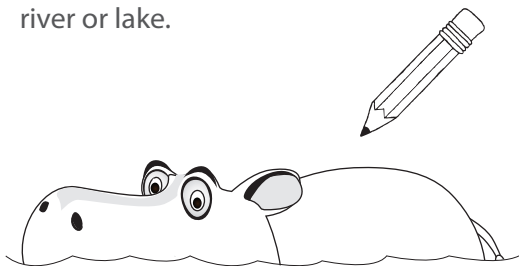


Do you know any more interesting facts about hippos?

Drawing

Draw 2 hippo pictures:

1. Some hippos on land in the moonlight eating some grass.
2. A hippo resting during the day in a river or lake.



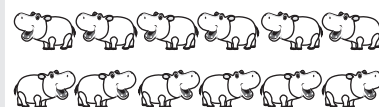
Gestures

A gesture is movement of part of the body to express an idea or feeling. For example, shaking your fist at someone when you're angry. When a hippo opens its mouth wide, it's not yawning, it's actually a threat gesture to its enemies meaning, "go away" or "don't come any closer".

Communicate different feelings and emotions to some friends just using gestures.

Number Crunchers

1. 12 hippos were playing in the river. 6 got out.



How many were left playing in the river?

2. 9 hippos were eating some grass on the riverbank. 7 went back in the water.



How many were left eating grass?

3. 10 hippos were resting in the sun. 4 more hippos joined them.



How many hippos are there now altogether?

Collective nouns A group of hippos is called a herd or a bloat.

Match the animals with the collective nouns.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| bats | mob |
| cows | pride |
| dolphins | colony |
| emus | flock |
| bees | herd |
| lions | pack |
| seagulls | pod |
| wolves | swarm |

