



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORLD'S LARGEST RODENT

# CAPYBARA ANSWERS KIDS' QUESTIONS!

There are more than 2,000 species of rodents around the world.

When you think of rodents, you might picture mice or rats. But the **capybara** is also a rodent, and it's the largest one on Earth!

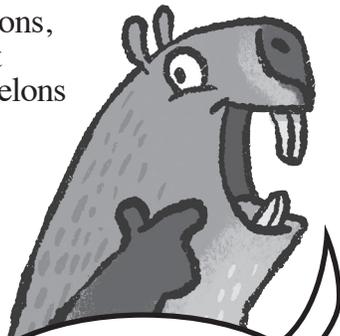
## What does a capybara eat?

Capybaras are **herbivores**, which means we only eat plants. And we can eat a lot of grass every day! Circle every other letter to find out how much:

**C**BILXJTVOSEWIYGSHPTLP  
VOXULNYDZSFACDHAPYC

S \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

During dry seasons, we may also eat reeds, grains, melons and squashes.



Capybara teeth never stop growing!



## How big is a capybara?

Capybaras are surprisingly big. Here's how much we can grow:

- Length: 3.2 to 4.2 feet (100–130 cm)
- Height at shoulder: about 1.6 feet (50 cm)
- Weight: 60 to 174 pounds (27–79 kg)

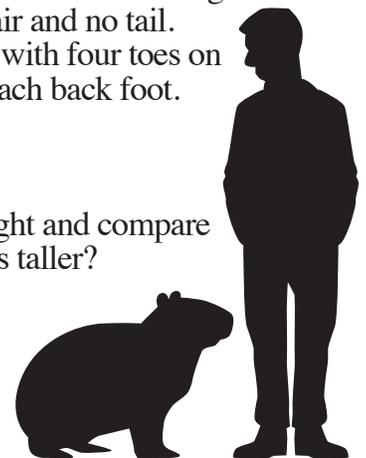
Some people say we look like a barrel with legs! We have long, light-brown hair and no tail. Our feet are slightly webbed, with four toes on each front foot and three on each back foot.

## Try This!

Measure your height and weight and compare yourself to a capybara. Who is taller? Who weighs more?

MY HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

MY WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_





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## Why do capybaras have webbed feet?

Capybaras live near rivers, lakes, and wetlands in Central and South America. Water is important because the plants that capybaras eat grow nearby, and it also helps keep them safe from predators.

Capybaras are strong swimmers and can stay underwater for up to five minutes to hide. Their webbed feet help them paddle through water.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Animals have physical features and adaptations that aid in survival.



## How are capybaras like hippos?



We capybaras share a clever feature with hippos. Our eyes, ears and nostrils sit high on our heads, so we can keep our bodies mostly underwater while still seeing, hearing and breathing. Pretty sneaky, right?

## How do capybaras stay cool?

On hot days, capybaras relax in shallow water or mud to keep our bodies cool. We usually eat when temperatures are cooler, like early morning or evening. But if we feel threatened, we wait until nighttime to find food.



Hold this page up to a mirror to discover something amazing capybaras can do!  
Capybaras can sleep in the water. They keep their eyes, ears and nose above the surface.

## Why do birds sit on capybaras?

You might see birds perched on capybaras' backs. The birds search for insects in the grass and sometimes pick bugs from a capybara's fur.

Both of us benefit — the birds get food, and we capybaras get a little grooming!



**Standards Link:** Life Science: Animals have physical features and adaptations that aid in survival.



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**Kid Scoop Together**

## Capybara Quiz

Read these activity pages. Then work with a family member to answer these questions.

1. Do capybaras have tails?

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2. How long can a capybara stay underwater to hide?

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3. How do birds and capybaras help each other?

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4. Why do capybaras live close to water?

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5. When do capybaras eat?

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## Capybara Facts and Opinions

Look through the newspaper and find six adjectives that describe a capybara. Can you find three that are opinions and three that are facts?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand the difference between facts and opinions.



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## Puzzler



### Capybara Fun Facts

Use the code to learn more about these cool creatures.

CAPYBARA CODE	
A = 26	N = 13
B = 25	O = 12
C = 24	P = 11
D = 23	Q = 10
E = 22	R = 9
F = 21	S = 8
G = 20	T = 7
H = 19	U = 6
I = 18	V = 5
J = 17	W = 4
K = 16	X = 3
L = 15	Y = 2
M = 14	Z = 1

### What is a group of capybaras called?

26 19 22 9 23

Because of their calm, social behavior, many people consider capybaras to be this.

21 9 18 22 13 23 15 2

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## VOCABULARY BUILDERS

### RODENT

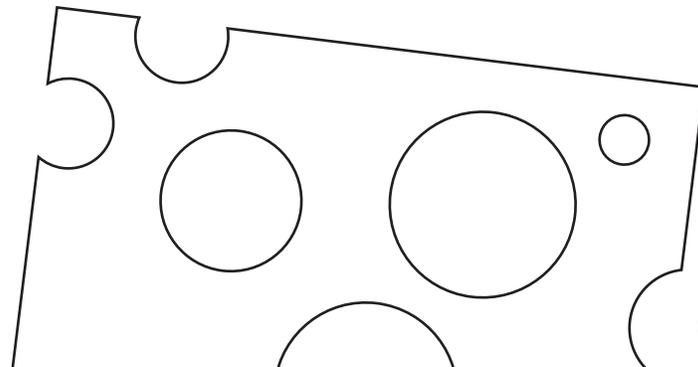
The noun **rodent** means a mammal with long front teeth that grow continuously.

The **rodent** family includes mice, rats, capybaras, beavers and more.

Try to use the word **rodent** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.



### How do mice make people groan?



ANSWER:  
With their  
cheesy  
jokes!





Name:

## Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.  
Then see how many of these words you can find in today's newspaper.

BIRDS

CAPYBARA

CLEVER

COOL

DAYS

DRY

EARS

EAT

FOOT

GROW

HOT

LAKES

MUD

STRONG

WATER

R	E	V	E	L	C	J	M	U	D
S	A	Y	L	Z	F	V	B	M	C
J	R	W	X	R	Y	O	S	W	A
D	S	A	N	S	T	E	O	I	P
E	A	T	L	J	K	R	B	T	Y
S	V	E	R	A	G	W	I	P	B
Y	W	R	L	O	O	C	R	S	A
A	O	Q	D	U	N	C	D	Q	R
D	O	K	T	O	H	G	S	K	A

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words.  
Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



Name:

## Answers

### Page 1

**What does a capybara eat?**

Six to eight pounds a day

### Page 4

**Capybara Fun Facts**

What is a group of capybaras called?

A herd

Because of their calm, social behavior, many people consider capybaras to be this.

Friendly

### Page 6

R	E	V	E	L	C	J	M	U	D
S	A	Y	L	Z	F	V	B	M	C
J	R	W	X	R	Y	O	S	W	A
D	S	A	N	S	T	E	O	I	P
E	A	T	L	J	K	R	B	T	Y
S	V	E	R	A	G	W	I	P	B
Y	W	R	L	O	O	C	R	S	A
A	O	Q	D	U	N	C	D	Q	R
D	O	K	T	O	H	G	S	K	A