



Hippos



(800) 295-5010



Disney's ANIMAL WORLD

Hippos

Objectives

The student in grades K-2 will:

- Become familiar with the physical characteristics of hippos
- Learn how hippos adapt to their environment
- Be introduced to the behavior of hippos and their offspring

Synopsis

Through live-action footage, students observe wild hippos in Africa. Clips from Disney animated films such as *The Jungle Book* further illustrate key facts about this gigantic amphibious creature. Students take a look inside the large mouths of hippos, learn how pink skin oil provides them with built-in sunscreen, and discover how much time hippos spend wallowing in water—up to 18 hours a day. Two short, fun quizzes help students focus on what they've learned.

Preview Questions

1. Which do you think is bigger, a lion or a hippo? Does a hippo look more like a horse or a pig? What color is a hippo's skin? Is it smooth or furry? Do you think hippos spend more time in water or on land?
2. In a hippo group, who do you think are the bosses, the dads or the moms? Do you know the name for a hippo group ("a _____ of hippos")?

Suggested Activities

1. Print the words bull, cow, and calf on the board. Provide the following sentence frames and have students complete them:
 - A baby hippo is called a _____. (calf)
 - A female hippo is called a _____. (cow)
 - A male hippo is called a _____. (bull)

Now help them brainstorm a list of animals that are also called bulls, cows, and calves. Examples: elephants, giraffes, and cattle.
2. Read students a picture book on hippos. Nonfiction children's books on this topic include *Hippopotamus* by Patricia Whitehouse (Heineman Library, 2002). Fiction stories include the *George and Martha* series by James Marshall (Houghton Mifflin, various dates) and *You Look Ridiculous, Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus* by Bernard Waber (Houghton Mifflin, 1979). Invite students to tell about parts of the book that reminded them of facts they learned from the hippo episode of *Disney's Animal World*.



3. Help students complete a chart such as the one below that tells how the special physical characteristics of hippos help them survive.

Special parts of a hippo's body	How they help hippos survive
extra-tough lips	help them bite through grass
huge mouth with strong jaws and long, sharp teeth	helps them threaten or fight predators and other hippos; also helps them eat large amounts quickly
nostrils that can open and close	help them stay underwater
layer of fat under their skin	helps them float and stay warm underwater
pink skin oil	keeps their skin moist and protects it from sunburn
eyes, ears, and nostrils all in one line	help them breathe, see, and hear while most of their bodies are underwater

4. Provide students with a large sheet of paper, poster paints, and wide brushes. Then invite them to paint a huge picture of a hippo. Display their painting and help students brainstorm a list of descriptive phrases about hippos. Examples: heavy body, huge mouth, layer of fat, big teeth, sharp tusks, tough lips, nostrils that open and close and special pink skin oil. Print each phrase on a card and help students choose an appropriate place to pin it on their hippo painting.
5. Point out that hippos are plant eaters, or herbivores. Choose several herbivores such as hippos, cows, and kangaroos, and several carnivores such as wolves, lions, and foxes. Write each animal's name on a separate slip of paper, place the slips in a bag, and mix them up. Draw the slips from the bag one by one. Read each animal's name aloud and ask, "Herbivore or carnivore?" Students can say "Munch, munch, plants for lunch!" if they think the animal eats plants. If they think it eats meat, they can say, "Meat's neat, and it's a treat!" After the class comes to a consensus, write the animal's name on the board under the heading Plant Eaters/Herbivores or Meat Eaters/Carnivores.

On the DVD

Scene Selection

The program on this DVD is divided into 5 chapters. This allows the user to enter at different points in the program.

- Chapter 1: The Huge Hippopotamus
- Chapter 2: Quiz Time 1
- Chapter 3: Hungry Hungry Hippo
- Chapter 4: Quiz Time 2
- Chapter 5: Fierce Creatures



DVD Activities

These classroom activities, found on the DVD, include relevant short scenes from the program.

Poetry Corner

Use the library or the Internet to find poems about hippos. Write and illustrate your own hippo poem.

Splash-Splash

Hippos spend most of their time in the water. Why do you think that is? What kind of things do they do in the water? How many things can you name?

Additional Resources

Disney Educational Productions

<http://www.Edustation.Disney.com>

This award-winning site contains additional activities and resources for use with this DVD.

San Diego Zoo

www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/syd_ruby_intro.html

Introduction to Ruby Hippo.

Wikipedia: Hippopotamus

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippopotamus>

This site contains facts, photos, references and habitat maps.

