

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Hippopotamus's also known as a hippo are a truly unique and somewhat ugly. What do you think?

I BET YOU DON'T LOVE WATER AS MUCH AS A HIPPO

Hippos are true lovers of water, which is why the Greeks named them the 'river horse.' Spending up to 16 hours a day submerged in rivers and lakes to keep their massive bodies cool and out of the hot African sun.

Surprisingly graceful in the water, and amazing swimmers or should I say great at water underwater, the hippo can even hold its breath for around 5-7 minutes!

Their eyes and nostrils are positioned high on their heads allowing them to be able to still breathe while being mostly submerged. What great camouflage!



Hippos can close their nostrils and ears to stop water from entering.



A hippo can live for up to 40 years.



The hippo's closest living relatives are whales and porpoises!

ON LAND

When the sun sets the hippopotamus leaves the water and travels overland to graze. They can travel up to 9 kilometres in the night and consume around 36 kilograms of grass, which is surprisingly low for an animal of that size. The hippo is also known to be able to match a human's speed for short distances.

The average size of a hippo is relative to a 6ft (180cm) man. They can also weigh up to 4 tons!

HABITAT

The hippo is found in sub-Saharan Africa. They can only survive in areas lots and lots of water, so they live in areas with rivers and lakes. These super social animals hang out in groups called schools, bloats, pods or sieges. These schools of hippos usually consist of 10-30 members of both females and males. But no matter the size, the group is usually lead by one dominant male.

DON'T MESS WITH A HIPPO

A hippos temperament is very aggressive which makes them extremely dangerous. Hippos are owners of large teeth and tusks that make great weapons when fighting off threats.



QUIET DOWN IN FRONT

Hippos are very loud animals because of their snorts, grumbles and wheezes. It is said it's about as loud as speakers from a rock concert.

SWEATING BLOOD?!

It was once thought hippos use to sweat blood but upon further research it turns out that their skin actually secretes a red fluid that is thought to be an antibiotic, sunscreen and skin moisturiser. This is because a hippo's skin dries out and cracks.

The hippo is considered one of the most dangerous animals in Africa and it is highly aggressive, particularly if you get between it and the water.