

The Dog

Information Sheet

The dog is descended from the wolf and is among the first carnivores.

Of the 35 species of wild dog that have now spread all over the world, 27 are small solitary foxes and the remaining 8 species are social dogs that hunt in packs - the stance of the dog/wolf shows their position in the pack. They are intelligent and adapt easily to new habitats.

All dogs have common features: good sight, hearing and smell; sharp canine teeth, special molars (carnassial teeth) that are used for tearing flesh. They have long, lean bodies and can run fast to catch their prey.

Dogs are mainly carnivores but they also eat insects, fruit, snails and other small prey. Dogs have strong claws that are non-retractable.

Dogs chase their prey and tire them out.

Wolves co-operate together to tire out their prey, communicating with body language, facial expressions and howls. The howling chorus of a wolf pack can be heard for about 10 km and this signals other wolves to keep away. There is always one lead wolf. Dogs mark their territory (revere) with urine.

Nowadays there are many breeds of dogs: German Shepherd dogs (Alsations), poodles, spaniels, dachshunds etc. We use dogs to help the blind (often labradors), to help search for people lost in the snow or under avalanches, earthquakes etc. and to check people and luggage for drugs etc. They are known as man's best friend. The female has 4-6 puppies a year - these are blind at birth.

Dingoes are wild dogs of Australia. They eat everything from insects to kangaroos and lizards. If they live with aborigines, they normally sleep together to keep the people warm at night!

The grey fox of North America can even climb trees!

The small fennet fox of the Sahara has adapted to desert life. Its large ears help it keep cool by spreading and getting rid of its body heat. The ears also help the fox to detect prey moving at night.

Coyotes (N.American prairie dogs)

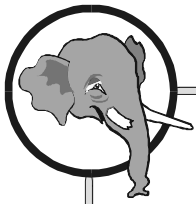
Jackals (Africa)

Male dog: dog

Female dog: bitch

Baby: puppy

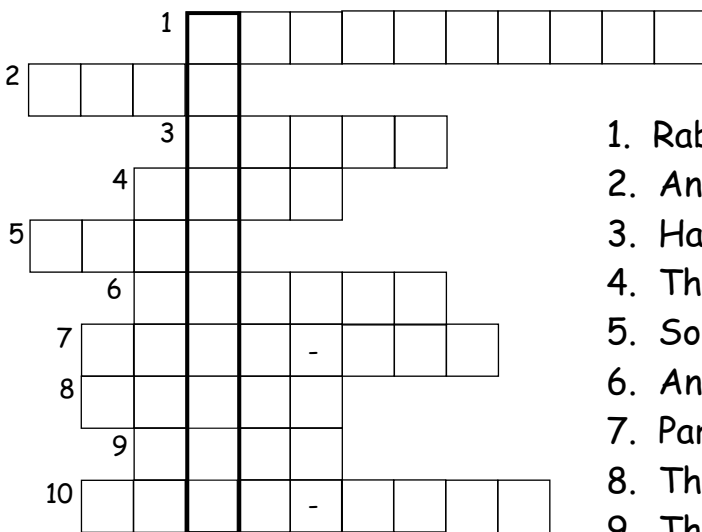




Rabbits and Hares

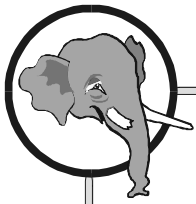
The rabbit lives in colonies in a warren. It has soft fur, long ears and powerful hind legs. Rabbits hop and jump - they cannot walk. Their white tails bob up and down when they hop. They have sharp claws to dig with and their upper lip is split into two (called a hare-lip). Rabbits eat grass, clover, dandelions, carrots, cabbage and most vegetables. They build a nest for their babies. The babies are blind and naked at birth. Rabbits can have 4-12 babies about 5 times a year!! Rabbits' fur can be made into clothing and their meat can be eaten.

The hare lives alone and spends his day in a flat hollow in the earth (called a form). Hares are bigger than rabbits and have longer legs and ears. Their fur is spotted brown-black. The female hare has 1-4 babies about 3 times a year. The babies have fur and they can see and hop and jump. The hare hides or runs from its enemies with its tail down. The fur of the Arctic hare turns white in winter so it can hide in the snow!

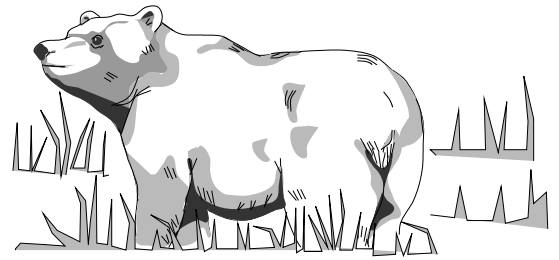


1. Rabbits like to eat these
2. An animal like a rabbit
3. Hares and rabbits eat this
4. The female rabbit builds this for her babies
5. Some people eat this from the rabbit
6. An animal like a hare
7. Part of the face that is split into two
8. The rabbits' babies are naked and _____
9. The hare has longer ones than the rabbit
10. Part of the body which is very powerful

Can you find the word in the middle? What does it mean?



The Bear



Information Sheet

Bears evolved about 40 million years ago in Europe!

Today there are only eight species of bear.

The polar bear is the largest of the meat eaters (weighing up to 725 kg as well as the North American grizzly).

Bears eat anything from plant roots, fruit, and small and large mammals to fish. Their main food is leaves, roots and berries. Most bears hibernate (sleep through winter) except bears in colder climates eg: the polar bear. Bears sleep in dens which they dig in hillsides, snow banks or caves. Females give birth to their cubs in dens where they stay warm until spring. Bears in tropical climates (eg. sun and sloth bears) are much smaller than their northern brothers.

Bears can run fast and are good climbers and swimmers.



Giant pandas are unknown outside China and are relatives of the bear.

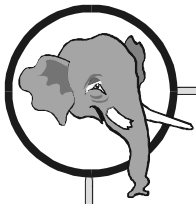
Although they sometimes eat birds and small mammals, they live almost entirely on bamboo shoots.

Raccoons (N and S America) are also related to the bear.

The Kodiak bear is a brown bear and lives in Alaska.



The koala of Australia is **NOT** a bear! It's a marsupial (pouched) mammal and eats certain eucalyptus leaves.



What Do you Know?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Dogs like to eat: bread honey meat | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Cats like to eat: grass mice ice cream | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Cows walk on their: shoes hooves tails | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Wild pigs live in: houses trees forests | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. The meat of the pig is called: plank pork park | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. The cat is a: herbivore carnivore omnivore | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. A dog has four: ears whiskers legs | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Baby pigs are called: porky piglets pigs | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. A dairy product: ham fish yoghurt | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. The dog is descended from the: wolf fox bear | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Pigs have ...: grey blue pink ... skin. | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. A baby cat is called a: calf kitten koala | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. The meat of the cow is called: chicken pork beef | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Animals have two: tails eyes claws | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. A dog has a: muzzle snout | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. A cow has ...: two four six ...stomachs. | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Baby rabbits are: blind deaf mute | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. The male pig is called a: boar duck stag | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. The cow gives us: bread plastic leather | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. An animal which "chews the cud" is a: dominant ruminant | 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. The mole lives in the: house grass earth | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. The cat has ...: fur whiskers teeth ... to feel with. | 4 |



Mark the correct answer, look at the numbers on the right-hand side and enter the correct letter of the correct answer in the box on the left. For example: Answer: FoRest (3) - the letter R is the third letter.