

JUMBO ZOO ANIMALS

Guide



**5 Jumbo Animals for little hands
and BIG imaginations!**

Care Instructions

Wash exterior of animals by hand using warm water and soap. Dry immediately. To prevent water from trapping inside the animals, do not immerse in water.

Animal Facts

Polar Bear

- Polar bears are the largest land animals that hunt for food (largest land carnivore)
- When standing straight up on their hind legs, polar bears can be over 10 feet (305 cm) tall; when down on all four legs, polar bears are about 4 feet (120 cm) tall measured at the shoulder
- Polar bears are great swimmers and have webbed front paws to help them swim; they can see very well under water
- Five nations have natural polar bear populations: Russia, Denmark (Greenland), Canada, Norway, and the United States (Alaska)
- Adult female polar bears normally weigh 330 to 650 pounds (150 to 300 kg); adult male polar bears weigh from 775 to more than 1,700 pounds (350 to 770 kg)
- Polar bears are 6 to 10 feet long (2 to 3 meters)
- Polar bear cubs stay with their moms for up to 2.5 years
- Underneath its fur, the polar bear's skin is black
- The life span of a polar bear is about 15 to 18 years

Hippopotamus

- To keep their bodies cool, hippos spend up to 16 hours a day in rivers and lakes
- Hippos are good swimmers and can hold their breath underwater for up to five minutes
- The eyes and nostrils of hippos are located high on their heads; this allows them to see and breathe while mostly submerged in water
- At sunset, hippos leave the water and travel over land to graze grass; they may travel over 5 miles (8 kilometers) in a night and can eat over 80 pounds (35 kilograms) of grass
- Hippos can run as fast as a grown man for very short distances
- Grown hippos are about 9.5 to 14 feet (2.8 to 4.2 m) in length and weigh about 5,000 to 8,000 pounds (2,270 to 3,630 kg)
- A baby hippo is called a calf and weighs nearly 100 pounds (45 kg) at birth
- A hippo can live up to 40 years in the wild

Zebra

- A zebra's stripes are as unique as fingerprints: no two sets are exactly alike
- Zebras are very social animals that spend time in herds grazing together on grass
- If a zebra is attacked, its family will defend it by forming a circle around it for protection
- The life span of a zebra is about 25 years in the wild
- A grown zebra stands 3.5 to 5 ft. (1.1 to 1.5 m) when measured to the shoulder
- Adult zebras weigh about 440 to 990 lbs. (200 to 450 kg)
- When a baby zebra (called a foal) is born, its mother will keep all other zebras away from it for a few days so it can learn to recognize her by sight, sound, and smell

Monkey

- Squirrel monkeys are one of over 260 known kinds of monkeys
- Squirrel monkeys grow to about 10 to 14 inches (25 to 35 cm) in length and weigh about 1.5 to 2.2 pounds (0.7 to 1 kg)
- A squirrel monkey gets its name because of its back coloring, which is similar to a squirrel's; the squirrel monkey's tail is about 15 inches (32 cm) long
- Squirrel monkeys are thought to be one of the smartest kinds of monkeys; a squirrel monkey has the largest brain compared to its body size of any kind of monkey
- Squirrel monkeys mainly eat plants, fruits, and insects
- The life span of a squirrel monkey is about 12–15 years in the wild

Penguin

- Emperor penguins are the largest of penguin species, weighing about 65 to 80 pounds (30 to 36 kg); Emperor penguins grow to about 3.8 feet (1.15 m) tall
- Emperor penguins eat fish, krill, and squid
- Emperor penguins can dive longer and deeper than any other penguin or bird species
- Emperor penguins can dive to a depth of 1,800 feet (550 meters) and hold their breath for up to 22 minutes
- The female Emperor penguin lays one egg, which is kept warm by the male penguin
- Emperor penguins huddle together to help block the wind and keep themselves warm
- Emperor penguins have a life span of about 20 years in the wild

Discussion Starters

In addition to providing great opportunities for pretend play, the Jumbo Zoo Animals are discussion starters in early science. Ask questions like these to help students understand the similarities and the differences between the animals.

Which animal has feathers? (Penguin)

Which animals have fur or hair? (Polar bear, zebra, monkey, hippo)

Do any of the animals lay eggs? (Penguin)

How are the feet of each animal alike or different from the others? (Zebra has hooves; polar bear has paws with claws; penguin has webbed feet)

Does the coloring of any of the animals help it blend into its natural habitat? (Polar bear is white to blend into a snowy habitat)

Which animal is most like a horse? (Zebra)

Which animal has a long tail to help it hang on trees? (Monkey)

Which animal likes a cold environment in the wild? (Polar bear, penguin)

Which animal spends a lot of time in water? (Penguin, hippopotamus)

Which animal probably eats fish in the wild? (Penguin, polar bear)

Which animal only eats plants in the wild? (Hippopotamus, zebra)

Questions like these help students develop early classification skills based on the characteristics of the animals.

Design a Habitat

Challenge students to use crayons and paper to design one of the animals in a zoo habitat that is most like its natural habitat. Make sure the students consider the basic needs of the animals including food and shelter.

Animal Act

Encourage students to move and make noise like each of the animals as you hold them up in view. Have students take turns acting like one of the animals and have others guess which animal the actor is pretending to be. Discuss how the animals sound and move in comparison to each other. How are they alike? How are they much different?



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