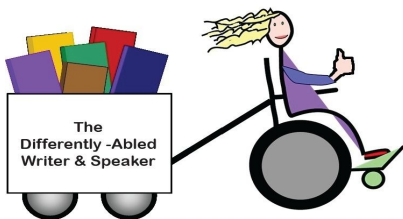


HIPPOPOTAMUS



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Beware of Yawning Hippos

Don't let your guard down when you see that yawning hippopotamus. He's not sleepy. He could be getting ready to attack. Yawning is a sign of aggression. They may look harmless, but looks can be deceiving. Large fat bodies generate more fear from concerns of being sat upon than anything else.

Just talk to a crocodile to learn how dangerous a hippo is. A hippo is capable of chomping a 10 foot long crocodile in two. Sound impressive for an herbivore? You might find it surprising that they only eat plants. In fact, the hippo leaves the water in the early evening and grazes through the night eating approximately 80 pounds of vegetation.

This big eater is known for its destruction of farmer's crops. It's because of the impact on farmer's crops they have been driven into smaller areas. They often roam five to seven miles for a large enough supply of grass and vegetation. Their large appetites benefit some areas by keeping vegetation levels low. Thanks to them animals can traverse areas that would be impassable from being choked by vegetation.

During the day hippos spend the majority of their time submerged in water. That's why Greeks called them the "river horse." Their thin skin and immense weight make them vulnerable to overheating. They were mistakenly believed to sweat blood, because of the red oily fluid they excrete, but it is not blood.. The fluid helps cool them and provides a natural sunscreen.

When they are not completely submerged, a hippo's eyes, nostrils, and ears will be visible peeking above the surface of the water. If you are watching a hippo and it disappears from sight, it is most likely swimming below the surface. Don't be surprised if it remains out of sight. These animals can stay submerged for five minutes.

A hippo appears to be too large to move fast, but looks are deceiving. In a lake or river they can run along the floor and are graceful swimmers. On land they can run up to 19 miles an hour for short distances. You would probably not be successful outrunning one. It would not be wise to taunt a hippo and attempt to escape on foot.

They are noted to be the most aggressive animal. Lions, tigers and bears seem more ominous, but the hippopotamus is responsible for a greater number of deaths each year. Their mouths measure two feet across. Stories of explorer's boats getting bitten in two are plentiful. With their massive jaws, quick running speeds, agility in water and impressive weight you might assume they lack any other form of defense, but you'd be wrong. It is not uncommon for a hippo to turn his backside to a predator and let its dung fly.

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When food or water is in short supply they will fight among themselves for it. They don't have to fight for survival in most other instances, because of their formidable size. The hippo already weighs 100 pounds at birth. When they are young they are the most vulnerable. Hyenas, crocodiles, and lions are its main predators, but even they do not normally attack a full grown hippo (Adults weigh 1 ½ to 3 tons.) or attack a baby hippo unless the mother is out of sight.

The hippo is the third largest land animal. White rhinos and elephants are the top two. They are found in groups that range from five to twenty. The groups of hippos are called pods or herds. Extremely territorial in water it seems odd they roam freely on land. Bulls will attack young hippos in the water, but don't on land.

The hippo's territory is shrinking. They are found primarily in the wild in Africa. Their numbers are dwindling. At the rate they are disappearing they will become extinct. Today they populate the lakes and rivers in sub saharan Africa. Be on the look out for a yawning hippo. It might save your life.

Hippo video

National Geographic

http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/explorer/2601/Overview#tab-Videos/02237_01

Hippo Information

National Geographic

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/hippopotamus.html>

Interesting Hippopotamus Facts

National Geographic

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/9425/interesting_hippopotamus_facts.html?cat=7

What's the most deadly species in Africa? -

Discovery

<http://curiosity.discovery.com/question/most-deadly-species-africa>

Jessica the Hippo

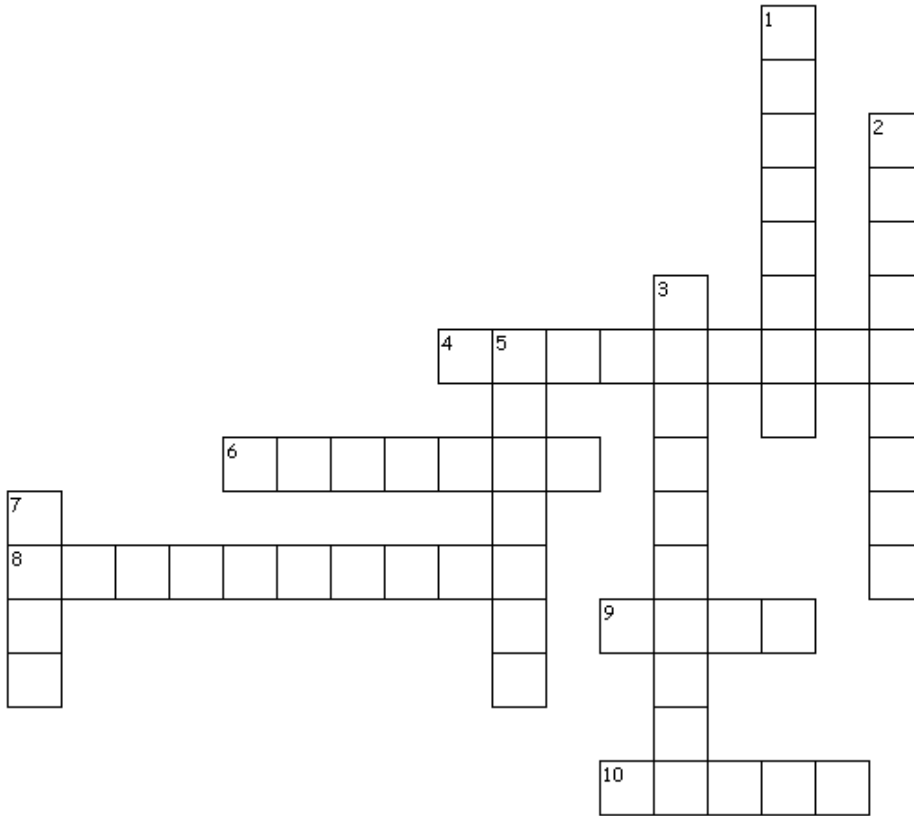
Animal Planet Show

<http://animal.discovery.com/tv/jessica-hippo/jessica-hippo.html>

WORLD'S DEADLIEST TOWNS: Killer Hippos

Animal Planet

<http://animal.discovery.com/tv/worlds-deadliest-towns/killer-hippos.html>



Across

- 4. An animal that only eat plants.
- 6. Hippos are disappearing at a rapid pace. If the trend continues, they will become _____.
- 8. They are noted to be the most _____ animal.
- 9. They will _____ five to seven miles for a large enough supply of grass and vegetation.
- 10. Groups of hippos are called pods or _____.

Down

- 1. Crocodiles are a _____ of hippos.
- 2. 2. During the day hippos spend the majority of their time _____ in water.
- 3. 3. Greeks called them the _____.
- 5. Hippos _____ an oily red substance for sunscreen
- 7. A hippos way of showing aggression is to _____.

AGGRESSIVE
CROCODILE
DUNG
ELEPHANT
EXCRETE
EXTINCT
GREEK
HERBIVORE
HERDS
LAKE
PREDATOR
RIVER HORSE
ROAM
SUBMERGED
VEGETATION
YAWN

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

AGGRESSIVE
CROCODILE
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EXCRETE
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HERDS
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PREDATOR
RIVER HORSE
ROAM
SUBMERGED
VEGETATION
YAWN

SOLUTION

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