

A-Z Weird Animal Facts

By Mrs. Davis

Weird and Unusual

Mrs. Davis LOVES to learn about fun facts! Most of the time they are weird and unusual. That means they are uncommon, something that surprises you by being odd and something you would have never thought of! This week we will learn a fascinating fact about different animals around the world!

Fascinating means extremely interesting... something that blows your mind!



Things to think about...

1. What other animals begin with the same letter/beginning sound?
2. Do you already know some of the facts?
3. Which fact is the most surprising or mind blowing to you?
4. What would you like to learn more about?
5. Is there an animal you want to know about that is not on this list?
6. Did you know about all these animals? Which ones did you just learn existed?
7. Different habitats of each animal... Can you find them all in the USA?
8. Which animal is your favorite? Why?
9. What do you think the most unusual/weird fact is?
10. Would you want any of these animals as a pet? Why?

Gators are Tricksters!

Alligators don't have thumbs but they still use tools! Alligators have 5 toes on its front feet and 4 webbed toes on its back feet. Alligators will place small sticks on their bodies which will attract birds who are trying to build nests!

The Alligator (and crocodile) will balance sticks on its head go completely still. It looks like a log in the water with detached branches!



Baking with Beavers!

Beavers secrete a goo that smells like vanilla...

In fact, it's sometimes used in vanilla flavorings. The “goo” is secreted as a brown slime that's about the consistency of molasses and smells like musky vanilla. It's an FDA-approved natural flavoring.



How much water can you drink??

Camels can drink up to 40 gallons of water at one time!
Can you imagine drinking 40 big jugs of milk?!

Camels may look slow but they can run up to 40 mph!
Just as fast as a race horse!



Smarty pants!...er, fins!

Dolphins are not fish... They are mammals like humans!

Mammals-

Give live births (do not lay eggs) and produce milk for young.

Have Hair/fur

Breathe Air

Warm blooded

They are extremely intelligent animals...Wild dolphins call each other by name!



Grounded!

Elephants love to travel! Why?
Because they always have their
trunks with them!!

Elephants are the **LARGEST** land
animal and the only animal that
cannot jump!



Frogs see it all!

Frogs can see forwards, sideways and upwards all at the same time. They never close their eyes, even when they sleep.

Frogs don't drink water... their skin absorbs all they need!



Galapagos Tortoise

Largest species of tortoise
in
the WORLD!



Talk about slow!

It takes a tortoise 40 years to reach their full size! They can also live for a long time! The oldest known on record was 170 years old!

Did you know they can sleep for 16 hours straight AND live a WHOLE YEAR without food or water?! WOW!



Shine bright!

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

Have a feeder??

Hummingbirds have no sense of smell. While they can't sniff out feeders, they do have good color vision. Some birds like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird prefer orange or red flowers. Despite this, red dye should not be used in nectar as it could harm the birds. Instead, plant naturally red or orange flowers or use feeders that have red coloring in their structure.



Bless you!

Marine or ocean iguanas are known for their very efficient salt glands, where they “sneeze” out salt. Because they feed underwater, they ingest a large amount of saltwater. In order to prevent dehydration, they must expel salt without expelling water, so they have specialized glands that remove salt from their blood.



Jelly is the new cool!

- Jellyfish have been around for **millions of years**, even before dinosaurs lived on the Earth.
- Some jellyfish are clear, but others are vibrant colours of pink, yellow, blue and purple.
- They can be **bioluminescent**, too, which means they produce their own light!
- Jellyfish have no brain, heart, bones or eyes! They are made up of a smooth, bag-like body and tentacles armed with tiny, stinging cells.
- Jellyfish have a mouth! The jellyfish's mouth is found in the centre of its body. From this small opening it both eats and discards waste. And it serves another purpose, too – by squirting a jet of water from its mouth, the jellyfish can propel forward! Cool, eh?



Phew! What's that smell?!

In 1970's some people didn't think Kangaroos could fart! However, researchers found that they produce methane gas and do release it into the air!

Let's take over the WORLD!! Or, maybe just Australia! ...

There are more kangaroos than humans in Australia.



Cover up those feet!

Lady bugs have stinky feet!

The spots and bright colors are meant to warn would-be attackers that this beetle tastes terrible. Ladybugs can secrete a fluid from joints in their legs which gives them a foul taste.



Wings of Poison!

Monarchs' colorful pattern makes them easy to identify—and that's the idea. The distinctive colors warn predators that they're foul-tasting and poisonous. The poison comes from their diet. Milkweed itself is toxic, but monarchs have evolved not only to tolerate it, but to use it to their advantage by storing the toxins in their bodies and making themselves poisonous to predators, such as birds.



Buuurrrr! We need it hot, hot, HOT!!

— The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration as birds do. Monarchs cannot survive the cold winters of northern climates. If they stay in a cold climate their life is short lived...Some fly as far as 3,000 miles to reach their winter home! That's 2 months of flying!! They all go to the same place in Mexico!

How do they know where to go? Well that's a mystery! Scientists aren't sure how migrating monarchs know which way to go, since they only live a few months and none makes the journey more than once.



Unicorn of the Sea!

Narwhals have a horn like spike on its face that's actually a TOOTH!

While it might appear to be situated in the center of its head, the narwhal's tusk is actually an exaggerated front left tooth that protrudes from the upper lip. The right front tooth is small, and usually remains in the mouth. Stranger still, while most teeth (including human teeth) have a hard exterior and a soft, sensitive interior, narwhal teeth are the opposite.



Mimic Octopus

Master of Deception!

The octopus dwells in the ocean and as we all know have 8 tentacles. The tentacles have “suckers” that can taste! How cool... but did you know an octopus can change color?!

Just like a chameleon, octopus have the ability to change into certain colors and camouflage themselves!

They can turn blue, gray, pink, brown or green. The mimic octopus can also flex its body to resemble more dangerous animals, such as eels and lionfish, according to the World Animal Foundation.



Can't Sleep, Must Eat!!!

Unlike most other bears, pandas do not hibernate during winter. In winter, they head lower down mountains for warmer weather.

Since they mainly eat bamboo, it doesn't give them enough fat to sleep through winter! They also like fruit!



Drop the Beat!

Quails might not be able to speak with words but they do in fact sing!

Quails communicate through high-pitched sounds, grunts, and cackles. These sounds have beats and harmony.



Rhino's are not bald!

A Rhino's horn is actually made up of keratin, the same type of protein that makes up our hair and fingernails... so a rhino's horn is made of hair!



Snakes don't need a nose...do they??

Snakes can smell with their TONGUE!

The snake has an organ called the Jacobson's organ inside its head that allows it to smell... When the snake's tongue goes back inside its mouth, it is put into two pits in the roof of its mouth. Those two pits are the entrance to the Jacobson's organ. The two pits in the roof of the mouth is why snakes have to have that forked tongue.



You gotta be “Keratin” me!

Toucans are known for their large colorful bills. At 8 inches they have the longest bill of any bird in the world in relation to their body size 25 inches!

Despite its size, the toucan's bill is very light as it is made of keratin. That's right! Just like the Rhino's horn and our hair and nails! Though, with the Toucan, it's a honeycomb-like structure. Why is the bill so big? To keep the bird cool in the hot climates it lives in.



That's so Tubular!

Sea Urchins are WILD! They don't have brains or eyes, but they can detect light and sense nearby predators, or other animals that might harm them. Scientists think they have light sensors all over their bodies and along their pointy spines.

Urchins do have "feet"...

Sea urchins move around on hundreds of sticky tube feet that allow them to crawl on rocks and sand. They move water in and out of their bodies to control their feet. They move their spines using a layer of muscle under the test. The spines help them to walk, too. They have a beak-like mouth on the underside of their bodies, which they use to scrape food off of rocks and other surfaces.



Dracula... is that you?!

Like the legendary monster from which they get their name, these small mammals drink the blood of other animals for survival.

They feed on blood from sleeping cows, pigs, horses, and birds. Though uncommon, vampire bats occasionally bite humans for blood.

They don't remove enough blood to harm the animal, but their bites can cause nasty infections and disease.

Rather than sucking blood, vampire bats make a small cut with their teeth and then lap up the flowing blood with their tongues.



Are ya achin? For some bacon?! He's a big pig!

Live underground? Don't spend too much time digging a hole for a nice and cosy home... Why??

PUMBA! That's right! Warthogs will you doing all the work!

Warthogs sleep underground at night in burrows that they steal from other animals. They don't dig their own! How rude!!



See Through!

X-ray tetras are notable for having a mostly transparent body, with their internals a shiny silver-gold colour and fins coloured black, white and yellow.

Female X-ray fish can lay up to 300-400 eggs at a time!



How cold is ICE COLD?!

In winter a yak can survive temperatures as low as -40 degrees F. BUR!

They are the highest-dwelling mammal in the world, typically living at altitudes of 18,000 feet and quite capable of living up to 23,600 feet above sea level.



Do you prefer stripes or spots?

For Zebras this is no question!

So why do zebras have stripes? Well, scientists aren't entirely sure. Their stripes perhaps serve to dazzle and confuse predators and biting insects, or to control the animal's body heat.

Each Zebra's stripes are unique, their stripes may also have a social purpose, helping zebras to recognise one another.



I



Animals

