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UNIT
7

The World's Most Unusual Animals

You have probably heard about the dumbo octopus, springbok, and maybe even the gerenuk, dugong, and the fossa. But have you heard of the unusual animals described in the table below?

The World's Most Unusual Animals

Animal	Habitat	Distinctive Feature
<p>Capybara</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lives in the rainforests and savannahs of South America likes to live near water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has partially-webbed feet and a hippo-like body a full grown male is around 135 cm long and can weigh as much as 65 kg looks like an overgrown guinea pig
<p>Jerboa</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lives in hot deserts is found throughout Northern Africa and Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has a long tail and powerful legs that help it jump up to 3 m in one leap may never drink water gets its moisture from the plants and insects it eats
<p>Okapi</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prefers very dense tropical rainforests and riverbeds found in the Ituri Rainforest in Central Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> looks like a mix between a horse and a zebra has reddish-brown fur with white stripes on its rump and hind legs
<p>Tomato Frog</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lives only in Madagascar near the coast of Southeast Africa lives in marshes and still-water channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bright reddish-orange in colour inflates its body into what looks like a big, red tomato when threatened

<p>Guanaco</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lives in deserts, grasslands, and mountains in South America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • camel-like appearance • has light or reddish-brown fur with a white underside • has large doe-like brown eyes, a streamlined and energetic body, and a short tail
<p>Long-nosed Chimaera</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lives in temperate and tropical waters around the world at depths of 200 m to 2000 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looks like a slimy, scaleless sea creature with a serpent's tail, a shark-like body, and a pointy duck-bill • has rodent-like teeth

As some of the unusual animals require special living conditions, they can only be found in very specific parts of the world. Human activities such as hunting, littering, and deforestation threaten the survival of these strange creatures. Therefore, we should all make efforts to conserve their habitats and protect them from harm!

A. Circle the answers.

- Which of the animals are described in the text?
gerenuk, jerboa, and octopus
capybara, jerboa, and okapi
guanaco, guinea pig, and springbok
- How does the jerboa stay hydrated?
by drinking water
by swimming
by ingesting plants and insects
- The okapi has white stripes on its _____.
rump and underside
rump and hind legs
underside and hind legs
- Which animal is found only in Madagascar?
the jerboa
the okapi
the tomato frog

B. Answer the questions.

1. What type of text is this? Suggest two additional subheadings to describe the animals.

2. How do the jerboa's powerful legs help it?

3. Where does the long-nosed chimaera live?

4. Which of the animals described in the text do you find most unusual? Why?



A table represents data in rows and columns. A table has a title, subheadings, and facts. Short phrases and bullet points are used in place of sentences.


C. Compare and contrast the animals described in the text by completing the table below.**Similarities and Differences between the World's Most Unusual Animals**

Animal	Similarity	Difference
Capybara and Okapi		
_____ and _____	live in deserts	
_____ and _____	reddish-brown appearance	

D. In the table “The World’s Most Unusual Animals”, visual comparisons to more well-known animals are made to explain the appearance of some of the unusual species. Write the comparisons to complete the flash cards.

Topic


Guanaco



Appearance

- camel-like appearance
- large doe-like brown eyes

Topic




Okapi

Appearance

Topic

Long-nosed Chimaera




Appearance

turn

Topic

Capybara



Appearance

turn

My Notes
