Before You Read

Look at the picture. Read the sentences. Check (✔) True, False, or Don’t Know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The hippopotamus is big.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. It lives in the snow and ice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. It has wings and a tail.</td>
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</table>
The hippopotamus, or hippo, lives in the hot part of Africa. It is a **mammal**. That is, its babies are born **alive**, and they drink milk from the mother’s body.

The hippopotamus is a **large** animal. It weighs four tons. Its **stomach** is seven meters long, and it eats only **plants**. It is a mammal, but it **spends** a lot of time in the water.

During the day, it sleeps **beside** a river or a **lake**. Sometimes it wakes up. Then it goes under the water to get some plants for food. It can close its nose and **stay** under water for ten minutes. Its ears, eyes, and nose are **high** up on its head. It can stay with its body under the water and only its ears, eyes, and nose **above** the water. Then it can **breathe** the air.

At night, the hippo walks on the land and looks for food. It never goes very far from the water.

A baby hippo often stands on its mother’s back. The mother looks for food underwater. The baby rides on her back above the water.
Vocabulary

Put the right word in each blank. The sentences are from the text.

1. The hippopotamus is a ____________ animal.
2. During the day, it sleeps ____________ a river or a ____________.
3. It is a ____________.
4. Its ____________ is seven meters long, and it eats only ____________.
5. It can close its nose and ____________ under water for ten minutes.
6. It can stay with its body under the water and only its ears, eyes, and nose ____________ the water.
7. Then it can ____________ the air.
8. It is a mammal, but it ____________ a lot of time in the water.
9. Its eyes, ears, and nose are ____________ up on its head.

Vocabulary: New Context

Put the right word in each blank. These are new sentences for words in the text.

1. The camel is a ____________, but the kiwi is a bird.
2. Food goes from your mouth into your ____________.
3. How do you smell a beautiful flower? You ____________ in through your nose.
4. Hippos eat ____________. Polar bears eat fish and sea animals.
5. I want to talk to you. Please sit ____________ me.
6. Tom likes to ____________ his free time in the Student Union.

   He ____________ there a few hours every day.
7. Birds can fly ____________ the trees.
8. ____________ Geneva is a beautiful lake in Switzerland.
9. The polar bear is a ____________ animal. It is very big.
10. New York City has a lot of ____________ buildings.
Vocabulary Review

Put a circle around the letter of the best answer.

1. Can you _____ a polar bear? What does it look like?
   a. hurt b. describe c. catch d. store

2. Many birds fly _____ in the winter to a warmer place.
   a. north b. wing c. south d. wide

3. These birds fly _____ in the summer to a cooler place.
   a. north b. wing c. south d. wide

4. Roses _____ beautiful.
   a. swim b. catch c. smell d. hurt

5. The kiwi is a _____ bird.
   a. strange b. warm c. hurt d. wide

6. My hand _____. I can’t write.
   a. flies b. catches c. smells d. hurts

Questions

The asterisk (*) means you have to think of the answer. You cannot find it in the text.

1. Where does the hippopotamus live?
2. Is a kiwi a mammal?
3. How long is a hippo’s stomach?
4. Does a hippo eat meat?
5. Why does a hippo go under water?
6. How can it stay under water for ten minutes?
7. Can it breathe under water? Why?
8. What does it do at night?
9. Where does a baby hippo ride?
10. Is a bear a mammal?
Comprehension: True/False/No Information

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if it is false. Write NI if there is no information about the sentence in the text.

_____ 1. Hippo babies are born alive.
_____ 2. Hippos eat plants.
_____ 3. Hippos live under water.
_____ 4. A hippo can close its eyes.
_____ 5. A hippo breathes under water.
_____ 6. A hippo looks for food on the land during the day.
_____ 7. A hippo has long eyelashes to keep water out of its eyes.

Main Idea

Circle the number of the main idea of the text.

1. The hippopotamus is a large African animal that spends a lot of time in the water and eats plants.
2. The hippopotamus has its eyes, ears, and nose high up on its head.
3. The hippopotamus walks on the land at night, and it sleeps during the day.
Before You Read

Look at the picture. Read the sentences. Check (✔) True, False, or Don’t Know.

1. Dolphins are mammals. ☐ ☐ ☐
2. Dolphins live in water. ☐ ☐ ☐
3. Dolphins can swim very well. ☐ ☐ ☐