

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Pygmy Hippopotamus

Choeropsis liberiensis

The pygmy hippopotamus is a small, elusive relative of the common hippopotamus, native to the forests and swamps of West Africa. Unlike their larger cousin, pygmy hippos are primarily nocturnal and s...

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal

Family: Hippopotamidae

Habitat: Lowland forests and swamps

Diet: Herbivore

Conservation status: Endangered

Lifespan: 30-35 years in captivity, 20-30 years in the wild

Weight: 180–275 kg (400–600 lbs)

Scientific name: *Choeropsis liberiensis*

Did you know?

- The pygmy hippopotamus was not scientifically described until the 19th century, and wild individuals are so elusive that most information comes from ...
- Pygmy hippos secrete a natural, pinkish 'sweat' that helps protect their skin from drying out and infection. Unlike the common hippo, pygmy hippos ar...

What I learned