

Pygmy hippos live in Africa. There are not many left in the world. They are quite heavy, weighing over 170 kg. They have short legs and a stumpy tail. Their skin is grey and is smooth with hardly any hair.



They live in swampy areas where there is plenty of water to keep them cool. They like swimming and they can close their nostrils and ears when under water.



They spend the days resting or sleeping in damp, muddy areas. In the evening they search for food. They eat plants, roots and leaves.

A new born pygmy hippo drinks its mother's milk for the first six months of its life. A baby soon learns to swim.



The swampy forests where pygmy hippos live are being destroyed by man to make farmland.

Questions

Fill in the missing words:

1. Pygmy hippos live in
2. A pygmy hippo weighs about
3. Their skin is and

Try to answer these questions in full sentences.

4. Why do pigmy hippos like to be near water?

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5. What food do pygmy hippos eat?.....

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6. What is destroying the swampy forests where they live?

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Draw a picture
of a pygmy hippo.



Answers

1. Pygmy hippos live in Africa.
2. A pygmy hippo weighs about 170 kg.
3. Their skin is grey and smooth.
4. Pigmy hippos like to be near water to keep cool.
5. Pygmy hippos eat plants, roots and leaves.
6. Man is destroying the swampy forests where pigmy hippos live to make farmland.