Giant Earthworm

One of the few giant earthworms ever found in South America is called the Rhinodrilus fafner and it is a presumed extinct giant [earthworm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthworm) from the family [Glossoscolecidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossoscolecidae%22%20%5Co%20%22Glossoscolecidae). It is among the largest known giant earthworms. Rhinodrilus fafner was confined to a small habitat and vanished possibly due to habitat destruction. It was officially declared extinct by the [Brazilian Ministry of Environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Ministry_of_Environment) (MMA) in 2003. However, the rediscoveries of the related earthworms created hope that Rhinodrilus fafner may be found again. Mrs. Cotten may have found it in Peru! If it wasn’t this rare extinct species it may be one of the other species listed:

Martiodrilus Crassus is another species found in South America. It is latin for “worm which feeds on dogs and children.” It doesn’t actually eat children, but was said it was large enough that it could have. Other types include:  Martiodrilus crassus, Martiodrilus iserni, and Martiodrilus validus which have been identified and reported back in the early 1900s.

Earthworms travel underground by the means of waves of muscular contractions which alternately shorten and lengthen the body (peristalsis). The shortened part is anchored to the surrounding soil by tiny claw-like bristles (setae) set along its segmented length.

* The giant earthworm burrows through relatively firm soil up to 5 feet deep, using its muscular head to chew through the substrate while ingesting fungi, bacteria, algae, and other microbes. They don’t have teeth, but they do have a [gizzard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gizzard), where small rocks that the worm has eaten help grind up food. (Some birds do this as well, by the way, as did their ancestors the dinosaurs. As do some enterprising human children, though it does them no real good.)
* A worm has no arms, legs or eyes.
* There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.
* Worms live where there is food, moisture, oxygen and a favorable temperature. If they don’t have these things, they go somewhere else.
* In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
* The largest earthworm ever found was in South Africa and measured 22 feet from its nose to the tip of its tail.
* The ventral blood vessels are responsible for carrying blood to the back of the earthworm's body. ... Earthworms do not have lungs. They breathe through their skin. Oxygen and carbon dioxide pass through the earthworm's skin by diffusion.
* Worms tunnel deeply in the soil and bring subsoil closer to the surface mixing it with the topsoil. Slime, a secretion of earthworms, contains nitrogen. Nitrogen is an important nutrient for plants. The sticky slime helps to hold clusters of soil particles together in formations called aggregates.
* Charles Darwin spent 39 years studying earthworms more than 100 years ago.
* Worms are cold-blooded animals.
* Earthworms have the ability to replace or replicate lost segments. This ability varies greatly depending on the species of worm you have, the amount of damage to the worm and where it is cut. It may be easy for a worm to replace a lost tail, but may be very difficult or impossible to replace a lost head if things are not just right.
* Baby worms are not born. They hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.
* The Australian Gippsland Earthworm grows to 12 feet long and can weigh 1-1/2 pounds.
* Even though worms don’t have eyes, they can sense light, especially at their anterior (front end). They move away from light and will become paralyzed if exposed to light for too long (approximately one hour).
* If a worm’s skin dries out, it will die.
* Worms are hermaphrodites. Each worm has both male and female organs.
* Worms can eat their weight each day.

An earthworm is a tube-shaped, segmented worm found in the phylum Annelida. Earthworms are commonly found living in soil, feeding on live and dead organic matter. An earthworm's digestive system runs through the length of its body. It conducts respiration through its skin. It has a double transport system composed of coelomic fluid that moves within the fluid-filled coelom and a simple, closed blood circulatory system. It has a central and a peripheral nervous system. The central nervous system consists of two ganglia above the mouth, one on either side, connected to a nerve cord running back along its length to motor neurons and sensory cells in each segment. Large numbers of chemoreceptors are concentrated near its mouth. Circumferential and longitudinal muscles on the periphery of each segment enable the worm to move. Similar sets of muscles line the gut, and their actions move the digesting food toward the worm's anus.[2]

Earthworms are hermaphrodites–each individual carries both male and female organs. They lack either an internal skeleton or exoskeleton, but maintain their structure with fluid-filled coelom chambers that function as a hydrostatic skeleton.

"Earthworm" is the common name for the largest members of Oligochaeta (which is either a class or a subclass depending on the author). In classical systems, they were placed in the order Opisthopora, on the basis of the male pores opening posterior to the female pores, though the internal male segments are anterior to the female. Theoretical cladistic studies have placed them, instead, in the suborder Lumbricina of the order Haplotaxida, but this may again soon change. Folk names for the earthworm include "dew-worm", "rainworm", "night crawler", and "angleworm" (due to its use as fishing bait).

Larger terrestrial earthworms are also called megadriles (which translates to "big worms"), as opposed to the microdriles ("small worms") in the semiaquatic families Tubificidae, Lumbricidae, and Enchytraeidae, among others. The megadriles are characterized by having a distinct clitellum (which is more extensive than that of microdriles) and a vascular system with true capillaries.

Earthworms are far less abundant in disturbed environments and are typically active only if water is present.[3]

<http://nerdist.com/earthworms-in-the-amazon-are-four-feet-long-and-they-gurgle/>

Three Toed Sloth

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/three-toed-sloths/>

COMMON NAME: Three-Toed Sloths

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Bradypus*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivores

SIZE: 23 in

WEIGHT: 8.75 lbs

The sloth is the world's slowest mammal, so sedentary that algae grows on its furry coat. The plant gives it a greenish tint that is useful camouflage in the trees of its Central and South American rain forest home.

Sloths are identified by the number of long, prominent claws that they have on each front foot. There are both two-toed and three-toed sloths.

All sloths are built for life in the treetops. They spend nearly all of their time aloft, hanging from branches with a powerful grip aided by their long claws. (Dead sloths have been known to retain their grip and remain suspended from a branch.) Sloths even sleep in trees, and they sleep a lot—some 15 to 20 hours every day. (Often times in South America, you can spot them in a Cecropia Tree.) Even when awake they often remain motionless. At night they eat leaves, shoots, and fruit from the trees and get almost all of their water from juicy plants.

Sloths give birth while hanging in the trees. Three-toed sloth babies are often seen clinging to their mothers—they travel by hanging on to them for the first nine months of their lives. The three-toed sloth emits a long, high-pitched call that echoes through the forests as “ahh-eeee.” Because of this cry these sloths are sometimes called *ais* (pronounced “eyes”).

Three-toed sloths also have an advantage that few other mammals possess: They have extra neck vertebrae that allows them to turn their heads some 270 degrees.

Red Kangaroo

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/r/red-kangaroo/>

COMMON NAME: Red Kangaroo

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Macropus rufus*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivores

GROUP NAME: Mob

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: Up to 23 years

SIZE: Head and body, 3.25 to 5.25 ft; tail, 35.5 to 43.5 in

WEIGHT: 200 lbs

There are many different types of kangaroo. The red kangaroo (Macropus rufus) is the largest of all kangaroos, the largest terrestrial mammal native to Australia, and the largest extant marsupial. It is found across mainland Australia, avoiding only the more fertile areas in the south, the east coast, and the northern rainforests.

This species has long, pointed ears and a squared-off muzzle. Males have short, red-brown fur, fading to pale buff below and on the limbs. Females are smaller than males and are blue-grey with a brown tinge, pale grey below. It has two forelimbs with small claws, two muscular hind-limbs, which are used for jumping, and a strong tail which is often used to create a tripod when standing upright. The red kangaroo's legs work much like a rubber band, with the [Achilles tendon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achilles_tendon) stretching as the animal comes down, then releasing its energy to propel the animal up and forward, enabling the characteristic bouncing locomotion. The males can cover up to 29.5 feet in one leap while reaching heights of 5.9–9.8 ft! However, the average is height is 3.9–6.2 ft.

 The red kangaroo ranges throughout western and [central Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Australia). Its range encompasses scrubland, grassland, and desert habitats. It typically inhabits open habitats with some trees for shade.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_kangaroo#cite_note-10) Red kangaroos are capable of conserving enough water and selecting enough fresh vegetation to survive in an arid environment. The kangaroo’s kidneys efficiently concentrate urine, particularly during summer.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_kangaroo#cite_note-11) Red kangaroo primarily eat green vegetation, particularly fresh grasses and [forbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forb), and can get enough even when most plants look brown and dry.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_kangaroo#cite_note-Tyndale_2005-12) One study of kangaroos in Central Australia found that green grass makes up 75–95% of the diet, with *[Eragrostis setifolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eragrostis%22%20%5Co%20%22Eragrostis)* dominating at 54%. This grass continues to be green into the dry season.

Green Turtle

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/green-turtle>

The green turtle is one of the largest sea turtles and the only herbivore among the different species. Green turtles are in fact named for the greenish color of their cartilage and fat, not their shells. In the Eastern Pacific, a group of green turtles that have darker shells are called black turtles by the local community. Green turtles are found mainly in tropical and subtropical waters. Like other sea turtles, they migrate long distances between feeding grounds and the beaches from where they hatched. Classified as endangered, green turtles are threatened by overharvesting of their eggs, hunting of adults, being caught in fishing gear and loss of nesting beach sites.

The green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), also known as the green turtle, black (sea) turtle, or Pacific green turtle,[3] is a large sea turtle of the family Cheloniidae. It is the only species in the genus Chelonia.[4] Its range extends throughout tropical and subtropical seas around the world, with two distinct populations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but it is also found in the Indian Ocean.[5][6] The common name comes from the usually green fat found beneath its carapace; these turtles' shells are olive to black.

This sea turtle's dorsoventrally flattened body is covered by a large, teardrop-shaped carapace; it has a pair of large, paddle-like flippers. It is usually lightly colored, although in the eastern Pacific populations parts of the carapace can be almost black. Unlike other members of its family, such as the hawksbill sea turtle, C. mydas is mostly herbivorous. The adults usually inhabit shallow lagoons, feeding mostly on various species of seagrasses.[7] The turtles bite off the tips of the blades of seagrass, which keeps the grass healthy.

Like other sea turtles, green sea turtles migrate long distances between feeding grounds and hatching beaches. Many islands worldwide are known as Turtle Island due to green sea turtles nesting on their beaches. Females crawl out on beaches, dig nests and lay eggs during the night. Later, hatchlings emerge and scramble into the water. Those that reach maturity may live to 80 years in the wild.[5]

C. mydas is listed as endangered by the IUCN and CITES and is protected from exploitation in most countries.[8] It is illegal to collect, harm, or kill them. In addition, many countries have laws and ordinances to protect nesting areas. However, turtles are still in danger due to human activity. In some countries, turtles and their eggs are hunted for food. Pollution indirectly harms turtles at both population and individual scales. Many turtles die after being caught in fishing nets. Also, real estate development often causes habitat loss by eliminating nesting beaches.

Koala

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/koala>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/koala/#koala-closeup-tree.jpg>

Koalas are marsupials, related to kangaroos. Most marsupials have pouches where the tiny newborns develop. A koala mother usually gives birth to one joey at a time. A newborn koala is only the size of a jelly bean. Called a joey, the baby is blind, naked, and earless. As soon as it's born, this tiny creature makes its way from the birth canal to its mother's pouch. Using the two well-developed senses it's born with—smell and touch—along with its strong front legs and claws and an instinct that tells it which direction to head, the baby koala reaches the pouch. There it stays, safely tucked away, growing and developing for about seven months.​ ​

After a baby has been in the pouch for about six months, its mother begins to produce a special substance called pap.​ ​The joey feeds on this in addition to the milk it's already getting. Pap comes from the mother's intestines and contains bacteria that the joey needs to have in its own intestines so that it can digest an adult diet of eucalyptus leaves.

At about seven months, the joey leaves the pouch to eat leaves, but returns to it to nurse. By the time the joey is about one year old, it stops nursing and eats just leaves.

Have you ever heard someone refer to a koala as a "koala bear?" Well, like bears, koalas are mammals, and they have round, fuzzy ears and look cute and cuddly, like a teddy bear. But koalas are not bears. They are members of a group of pouched animals called marsupials. Marsupials include kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos, wombats, possums, and opossums. Koalas look soft, but their fur feels like the coarse wool of a sheep. They also seem cuddly, but koalas are wild animals and don't make good pets.

Koalas are native to southeastern and eastern Australia, living in forests of eucalyptus trees. They are basically sedentary animals that need to sleep a lot to give them time to digest their food. Being on the ground all the time would be a disadvantage, because predators could catch them easily. Instead, they adapted to live way up in eucalyptus trees, rear end firmly planted in the fork of branches, so they can chew leaves and nap all they want to without feeling threatened.

Don’t Call Koalas Koala Bears! They aren’t bears, they are marsupials! Koalas are mammals, like bears, and they have round, fuzzy ears and look cute and cuddly, like a teddy bear. But koalas are not bears. They are members of a group of pouched animals called marsupials. Marsupials include kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos, wombats, possums, and opossums. Koalas look soft, but their fur feels like the coarse wool of a sheep. They also seem cuddly, but koalas are wild animals and don't make good pets.

HABITAT AND DIET

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Eucalyptus forests are home, shelter, and food for koalas. The animals are built to live in the crooks of branches: koalas have a reduced tail, a curved spine, and a rounded rear end. But they do travel on the ground when necessary, to get from tree to tree or to a new area. On hot days, koalas select the coolest trees and the coolest locations in those trees (against the trunk and other low, shaded branches) for resting. On cooler days, koalas are more likely to rest farther away from the trunk where they can absorb heat from the sun.

Koalas have few natural predators, although sometimes a dingo or large owl can take one. The most common direct causes of koala deaths are from motor vehicles and dogs. Koalas are definitely safest high up in trees.

Koala hands and feet are designed to curl around and hang onto tree branches very effectively. Their hands have two opposing thumbs to increase their grip (we only have one), and sharp claws to dig into bark. The feet have a toe that is really two toes fused together, which they use to groom themselves, and a toe that doesn’t have a claw that acts like a thumb for gripping. Rough, ridged pads on the hands and feet aid their grip and give them traction. Strong arm and shoulder muscles help a koala climb 150 feet (46 meters) to the top of a tree and enable it to leap between branches in the trees.

Koalas are naturally solitary animals that are mostly active at night and spend most of their time napping and eating. Koalas eat only eucalyptus leaves. Eating leaves from one kind of plant may seem boring, but there are more than 600 different kinds of eucalyptus trees and, from a koala’s point of view, each looks and tastes very different! Koalas prefer the leaves of about three-dozen varieties.

Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous to most animals, but koalas have special bacteria in their digestive tract that break down the toxic compounds. They can tell which eucalyptus species are more toxic than others and only eat the less-toxic leaves. Special cheek teeth grind the tough eucalyptus leaves. Koalas don't get many calories from their diet, but they conserve energy by moving occasionally and by sleeping as much as 20 hours each day.

Maori Wrasse (Humphead Wrasse)

The humphead wrasses can be located with in the east coast of Africa and Red Sea, as well as in the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Juvenile and adult humphead wrasses are found in different ranges. Juveniles are usually found in shallow, sandy ranges that are bordering coral reef waters, while adults are mostly found in offshore and deeper areas of the coral reefs, typically in outer-reef slopes and channels, but can also be found in lagoons. Humphead wrasses are found in small groups or larger combinations within the

The humphead wrasse is the largest living member of the family [Labridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labridae%22%20%5Co%20%22Labridae). Males are typically larger than females and are capable of reaching lengths of up to 2 meters from tip to tail and weighing up to 180 kg, but the average length is generally a little less than 1 meter. Females rarely grow larger than one meter in length. This species of fish can be easily identified by its large size, thick lips, two black lines behind its eyes, and the hump that appears on the forehead of larger adults. The color of the humphead wrasse can vary between a dull blue-green to more vibrant shades of green and purplish-blue. This particular reef fish prefers to live singly but adults are occasionally observed moving in small groups.ir habitat.

<http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/humphead_wrasse/>

Adult humphead wrasse are identified by thick lips and a prominent hump on their forehead, while juveniles are a light green colour, with two black lines extending from behind the eye. The species changes in body form, colour and can even change gender during its lifetime.

Adults are found on the reef during the day. At night they rest in reef caves and under coral ledges.
Size
This species reaches a maximum length of more than 2m and up to 190kg in weight.
Diet
Humphead wrasse feed primarily on molluscs, fish, sea urchins, crustaceans, echinoderms, and other invertebrates, using their strong teeth. The species may be one of the few predators of the toxic crown of thorns starfish, boxfish and sea hares.
**Population**
The humphead is found in the Indo-Pacific, from the Red Sea to South Africa and to the Tuamoto Islands (Polynesia), north to the Ryukyu Islands (south-west Japan), and south to New Caledonia. The species is naturally rare, with recorded maximum adult density of not more than 20 fish per 10,000 m². The population has reduced by 50% over the course of 30 years.

Woolly Monkey

<http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/factsheets/entry/woolly_monkey/taxon>

The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) is a medium to large sized primate, that inhabits the tropical forests of north-west South America. The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) is most well known for it's round-shaped head and dense fur that covers the body of the woolly monkey.

Woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) are found throughout [Colombia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/south-america/colombia/), [Ecuador](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/south-america/ecuador/), [Peru](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/south-america/peru/), [Brazil](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/south-america/brazil/) and parts of [Venezuela](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/south-america/venezuela/) where they live an arboreal [lifestyle](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle). Woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) have long and very strong [prehensile](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prehensile) tails which allows them to balance and grip onto branches without having to give up the use of their hands.

There are four different [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) found in the South American jungles today. These are the brown woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) (also known as the common woolly monkey), the grey woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/), the Columbian woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) and the silvery woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/). All four of the different woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) are found in the same regions of South America.

The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) gets its name from its soft and thick, curled fur which ranges from brown to black to grey, depending on the [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/). Woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) have relatively stocky bodies, with powerful shoulders and hips.

Like many other primate [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species), woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) live together in fairly large [groups](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group) known as troops. The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) troops contain both male woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) and female woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/). The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) troop is also known to split up into smaller [groups](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group) when it is time to forage for food.

The woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) is an omnivorous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), meaning that it feeds on both plants and other [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal). Fruit is the primary source of food for woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/), but they will also eat nuts, seeds, leaves, flowers, nectar, [insects](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/insect/) and even small rodents and reptiles.

Due to their relatively large [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size), woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) have few natural [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) within their jungle [environment](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-environment). Large [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) of [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) such as [eagles](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/eagle/), are the main [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the young woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/), and wildcats such as [ocelot](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/ocelot/) and [jaguars](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/jaguar/) are the main [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the adult woolly [monkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/). The [human](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) is also one of the main [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) as they are hunted for their meat and fur.

Due to deforestation and therefore [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat) loss, the woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) population numbers are drastically decreasing, with the woolly [monkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/monkey/) now considered to be an [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) that is [vulnerable](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/vulnerable/) to extinction.

<https://a-z-animals.com/animals/woolly-monkey/>

<http://www.softschools.com/facts/animals/woolly_monkey_facts/490/>

|  |
| --- |
| Woolly monkey is a medium sized animal. It can reach 20 to 24 inches in length and 11 to 18 pounds in weight. Males are larger than females. |
| Woolly monkey is covered with dense fur that can be grey, brown or black, depending on the species. Their palms are pink in color. |
| Woolly monkey has round head. It has long arms, strong shoulders and prehensile tail, which all together facilitate movement in the trees. |
| Woolly monkey spends almost entire life in the trees (arboreal animal). |
| In the rare occasions when woolly monkey leaves the trees and comes to the ground, it moves using only its legs (bipedal animal). Arms and tail are used for balancing. |
| Woolly monkey is very fast and agile animal. It can move at the speed of 35 miles per hour. |
| Woolly monkey is diurnal animal (active during the day). |
| Woolly monkey rests during the night, hidden in dense treetops. |
| Main predators of woolly monkeys are wild cats (such as jaguars and ocelots), birds of prey and large reptiles. |
| Woolly monkey is an omnivore (animal that consumes plants and other animals). It usually eats fruit, seeds, nuts, nectar, insects, reptiles, small birds and rodents. Since tail can support the whole weight of a woolly monkey, it often hangs upside down while eating. |
| Woolly monkey lives in large groups called troops. Group is composed of 10 to 45 members of both genders. Hierarchy in the group is established during the playing time. Dominance is accomplished via aggressive behavior. |
| Woolly monkeys use different sounds and olfactory, visual and tactile cues for communication. Sharing of food is very important part of the social life which enhances bonds between the members of the group. |
| Woolly monkeys are promiscuous animals. That means that they have more than one mating partner. Woolly monkeys reach sexual maturity at the age of 5 to 8 years. |
| Pregnancy in females lasts 7 to 7.5 months and ends with a single baby. Young woolly monkey spends its first week attached to the mother's belly. It will move to her back when it becomes stronger. Baby depends on the mother's milk 9 to 12 months. |
| Woolly monkey can survive up to 24 years in the wild. |

Capybara

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/capybara>

Water pig. Africa has hippos, and the Americas have capybaras! Capys are found east of the Andes on Central and South American riverbanks, beside ponds, and in marshes or wherever standing water is available. Due to its dry skin, a capy requires a swimming hole as part of its lifestyle to stay healthy.

Water is a source of life for the capybara, as the animal eats water plants and grasses and uses the water itself to escape from danger. In fact, a capybara can stay underwater for up to five minutes at a time to hide from predators. It uses those webbed feet (four toes on each front foot and three on each back one) to swim as well as walk.

The capybara has something in common with the hippo: its eyes, ears, and nostrils are all found near the top of the animal’s head. A capy can lift just those parts out of the water to learn everything it needs to know about its surroundings while the rest of its body remains hidden underwater.

Capybaras also wallow in shallow water and mud to keep cool during a hot day before wandering out in the evening to graze. They tend to eat around dawn and dusk, but if capybaras feel threatened, they wait until the safe cover of night to eat.

HABITAT AND DIET

Feeling right at home. Capybara live in Central and South America. They roam the swampy, grassy regions bordering rivers, ponds, streams. and lakes.

Long in the teeth. Because capybaras are rodents, they share some common features with mice, squirrels, and porcupines. The most well-known of those features are probably those ever-growing front teeth. Capybaras use their long, sharp teeth for grazing on grass and water plants. An adult capy can eat 6 to 8 pounds (2.7 to 3.6 kilograms) of grass per day! During the dry season, when fresh grasses and water plants dry up, capybaras eat reeds, grains, melons, and squashes. They also eat their own poop to get beneficial bacteria to help their stomach break down the thick fiber in their meals.

Even though rodents aren’t closely related to ruminants like goats, cows, and giraffes, capybaras regurgitate their food to chew it some more. They chew their food from side to side, like a camel, rather than up and down, like we do. This is a good way to eat tough plant materials.

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/capybara>

Tapir

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/tapirs/>

COMMON NAME: Tapirs

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Tapiridae*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivores

GROUP NAME: Candle

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 25 to 30 years

SIZE: Height at shoulder, 29 to 42 in

WEIGHT: 500 to 800 lbs

Tapirs look something like pigs with trunks, but they are actually related to horses and rhinoceroses. This eclectic lineage is an ancient one—and so is the tapir itself. Scientists believe that these animals have changed little over tens of millions of years.

Behavior

Tapirs have a short prehensile (gripping) trunk, which is really an extended nose and upper lip. They use this trunk to grab branches and clean them of leaves or to help pluck tasty fruit. Tapirs feed each morning and evening. During these hours they follow tunnel-like paths, worn through the heavy brush by many a tapir footstep, to reach water holes and lush feeding grounds. As they roam and defecate they deposit the seeds they have consumed and promote future plant growth.

Life in the Water

Though they appear densely built, tapirs are at home in the water and often submerge to cool off. They are excellent swimmers and can even dive to feed on aquatic plants. They also wallow in mud, perhaps to remove pesky ticks from their thick hides.

Tapir Species

New World tapirs generally live in the forests and grasslands of Central and South America. A notable exception is the mountain (or woolly) tapir, which lives high in the Andes Mountains. Woolly tapirs, named for their warm and protective coat, are the smallest of all tapirs.

The world's biggest tapir is found in the Old World—Southeast Asia. The black-and-white Malay tapir can grow to 800 pounds. It inhabits the forests and swamps of Malaysia and Sumatra.

All tapir species are at-risk largely due to hunting and habitat loss.

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/tapir>

Squirrel Monkey

<https://a-z-animals.com/animals/squirrel-monkey/>

<http://www.monkeyworlds.com/squirrel-monkey/>

he Squirrel Monkey is a small species of New World Monkey that is natively found in the forests and tropical jungles of Central and South America. Measuring as little as 25cm from the top of the head to the base of their tail, these tiny primates are more than double that size when including their long tail. Unlike a number of other small monkey species, the tail of the Squirrel Monkey is not prehensile which means that it cannot be used to grip onto branches. Instead, their long tail is used to help the Squirrel Monkey to balance when climbing about on the high branches. There are five species of Squirrel Monkey found in varying locations which are the Common Squirrel Monkey, the Black-Capped Squirrel Monkey, the Central American Squirrel Monkey, the Golden-Backed Squirrel Monkey and the Black-Headed Squirrel Monkey. All Squirrel Monkey species resemble each other in appearance besides slight variations in fur colour and the region in which they live.

Squirrel Monkey Anatomy and Appearance

Although both male and female Squirrel Monkeys appear to be almost identical in size and appearance, males actually tend to be slightly larger and heavier than their female counterparts. Squirrel Monkeys have very distinctively coloured, short fur which is mostly olive or grey in colour with the exception of their bright yellow legs and white face. The Squirrel Monkey also has a tuft of longer and darker hair on its forehead and a black or dark brown muzzle. The Squirrel Monkey spends a great deal of time high in the trees and is very well adapted to doing so with incredibly dexterous fingers that are not only great for gripping onto branches, but also come in very useful when opening fruits and holding onto prey. The long tail of the Squirrel Monkey is longer than its body and is quite slim ending in a dark, bushy tip.

Squirrel Monkey Distribution and Habitat

The five different species of Squirrel Monkey are found distributed throughout Central America and into South America as far as the upper Amazon Basin. Squirrel Monkeys tend to prefer regions of dense, tropical forest that is close to a stream or other flowing water source which is thought to be for safety. Most active during the day, Squirrel Monkeys are found at the middle level of the forest canopy and will rarely venture towards the top as they are in danger of being caught by birds, or down to the ground in fear of other predators. Squirrel Monkeys can however, be found in a variety of forest types and have even been known to inhabit areas that have been cleared for agriculture. They are under threat though from habitat loss that is primarily in the form of deforestation for agriculture and growing Human settlements.

Squirrel Monkey Behaviour and Lifestyle

Squirrel Monkeys are incredibly sociable animals that move about noisily in the trees in large troops that are usually 40 or 50 animals strong, but can contain up to 500 individuals. Squirrel Monkey troops usually contain a number of sub-groups including adult males, pregnant females, females with their young, and groups of young Squirrel Monkeys. They communicate between one another using a range of different noises with these complex social troops sleeping together at night before breaking up into their sub-groups to feed during the day. Squirrel Monkeys are excellent at climbing and leap between branches to travel through the forest. Their long tail provides them with excellent balance and aided by their nimble hands and feet, allows Squirrel Monkeys to cover vast areas of the jungle. They are also known to follow other troops at a distance to take advantage of the food left in their path.

Squirrel Monkey Diet and Prey

The Squirrel Monkey is an omnivorous animal that eats both small animals, plants and plant matter in order to survive, feeding during the day in their smaller sub-groups. Squirrel Monkeys have a widely varied diet that is primarily comprised of fruits and insects. They are also known to eat flowers, buds, eggs, nuts, lizards and other small vertebrates that are found amongst the surrounding leaves and branches. The hands and fingers of the Squirrel Monkey are perfectly designed for holding onto food whilst either peeling it or eating it, which it does using its small but sharp teeth. However, in areas that have been more effected by deforestation, Squirrel Monkeys have been known to raid agricultural plantations in search of food.

Squirrel Monkey Predators and Threats

The Squirrel Monkey uses a number of vocal calls to communicate with the rest of the troop including having special warning sounds which indicate the presence of a dangerous predator. The Squirrel Monkey is one of the smallest species of New World Monkeys and is therefore preyed upon by a variety of forest animals. Birds of Prey are the biggest threat to the Squirrel Monkey along with Snakes that hunt them in the trees. Due to the fact that habitat loss has forced Squirrel Monkeys in some areas to eat crops, they are threatened by methods used to try and keep them away. The fact that Squirrel Monkeys inhabit the jungle in enormous troops means that they have also been severely effected by decrease of forest as there is not enough food to sustain the whole troop.

Squirrel Monkey Interesting Facts and Features

The Squirrel Monkey is thought to be one of the most intelligent species of primate and is known to have the largest brain to body mass ratio of all the monkey species in the world. Squirrel Monkeys have incredibly good eyesight and colour vision which means that they are able to spot fruits amongst the dense vegetation with ease. Whilst feeding in really dense foliage, Squirrel Monkeys are known to make a "chuck-chuck" sound to indicate their whereabouts to other members of their troop. Squirrel Monkeys are also known to spread urine on their hands and feet which means they are able to leave a scent trail whilst moving about in the trees.

Squirrel Monkey Relationship with Humans

Due to the small size and highly intelligent nature of the Squirrel Monkey, they have been captured and kept as pets in both their native regions and around the world. Although the majority of Squirrel Monkey pets are today bred from captive animals, the capture of them in the past for the exotic pet trade has had an effect on wild populations, particularly in certain areas. The Squirrel Monkey is today however, more threatened by increasing levels of Human activity in their native regions particularly in the form of deforestation for logging and land clearance for agriculture.

Squirrel Monkey Conservation Status and Life Today

Today, the Squirrel Monkey is an animal species that is at a lower risk in its natural environment than a number of other New World Monkey species. However, two out of the five Squirrel Monkey species are listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN and two are listed as being of Least Concern. Population numbers of all five species though are threatened by habitat loss, with their large troops being pushed into smaller and smaller areas of their natural habitat.

Blunt-headed Tree Snake

These snakes are known for their long, slender bodies and very large heads. Their pupils are very distinct from other snakes. Most snakes found around the world are known to have very poor vision and rely mostly on their smell and vibrations to detect signs of prey and predators. Arboreal snakes have much better vision among other classes of snakes. Blunthead tree snakes on the other hand, have vertical slits for pupils which allow for the snake to look down. This trait is what give the blunthead tree snake such an advantage over other snakes. Their eyes make up approximately 26% of its head.

The ventral surface, or stomach, of the snake is mostly white while the dorsal surface, or top, is a light or pale brown with lateral dark brown patches that begin at the head and continue down the length of the snakes’ body.

Blunthead tree snakes are carnivores that forage primarily at night. They feed mostly on small lizards, frogs, and other reptile eggs. Because the female blunthead tree snakes tend to have larger heads, they are capable of preying on larger reptiles and amphibians. Blunthead tree snakes are rear-fanged and mildly venomous, but is not considered dangerous to humans.

Because the blunthead tree snakes are nocturnal, they can be found in a resting coiled position in very shaded areas during the day. At night they forage for food through dense vegetation on the ground up to their resting places in the trees.

Blunthead tree snakes are [arboreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arboreal%22%20%5Co%20%22Arboreal). They are most often found in low vegetation such as coffee trees or bromeliads. These snakes prefer much cooler and moist areas such as wet forests and rainforests.

Blunthead tree snakes are distributed in Mexico, most of Central America, and parts of South America south to northernmost Argentina. Specifically, they have been recorded in eastern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, French Guiana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and northern Argentina

Wombat

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/c/common-wombat/>

COMMON NAME: Common Wombat

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Vombatus ursinus*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivores

GROUP NAME: Mob, colony

SIZE: 28 to 47 in

WEIGHT: 32 to 80 lbs

This large, pudgy mammal is a marsupial, or pouched animal, found in Australia and on scattered islands nearby. Like other marsupials, wombats give birth to tiny, undeveloped young that crawl into pouches on their mothers' bellies. A wombat baby remains in its mother's pouch for about five months before emerging. Even after it leaves the pouch, the young animal will frequently crawl back in to nurse or to escape danger. By about seven months of age, a young wombat can care for itself.

Burrow Life

Wombats use their claws to dig burrows in open grasslands and eucalyptus forests. They live in these burrows, which can become extensive tunnel-and-chamber complexes. Common wombats are solitary and inhabit their own burrows, while other species may be more social and live together in larger burrow groups called colonies.

Vegetarian Diet

Wombats are nocturnal and emerge to feed at night on grasses, roots, and bark. They have rodentlike incisors that never stop growing and are gnawed down on some of their tougher vegetarian fare.

Conflict with Humans

The field and pasture damage caused by wombat burrowing can be a destructive nuisance to ranchers and farmers. Wombats have been hunted for this behavior, as well as for their fur and simply for sport. The common wombat is still hunted as vermin. Space for all wombats is at a premium as farm and ranch lands increasingly replace natural space.

<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/wombat>

Wombats can live for years without drinking any water, and it can take a wombat up to 14 days to completely digest one meal.

Not in game, but fun monkey to research:

Spider Monkey

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/spider-monkeys/>