

Making Inferences About Awesome Animals



An **inference** is a conclusion you come to based on reasoning and evidence within a text. Read each paragraph below and answer the inference question that follows.

The Arctic hare lives in the frozen Arctic tundra. Because of its cold habitat, the Arctic hare has thick, grey fur. However, when it snows, its fur turns completely white. Some Arctic hares that live in the far north stay white all year round.

You can infer that...

- a) Arctic hares do not hibernate through the winter.
- b) Arctic hares use camouflage to protect themselves from predators.
- c) Arctic hares are herbivores.
- d) Arctic wolves prey on Arctic hares.

If you saw a tapir, you might think it looked like a pig with a short elephant trunk. But, they are actually related to horses and rhinoceroses. There are many different types of tapirs. The largest species, called the Malay tapir, can grow up to 800 pounds!

You can infer that...

- a) Tapirs have hooved feet.
- b) Tapirs live in forests and grasslands.
- c) Tapirs are excellent swimmers and can even dive under water.
- d) Tapirs can be found in Central and South America and Southeast Asia.

Amazon river dolphins are a species of dolphin that make their homes in rivers. They are friendly animals, and are known to approach humans and river boats. But, unlike the dolphins you might see in the ocean, these dolphins are often pink in color.

You can infer that...

- a) River dolphins eat crabs, catfish, and small turtles.
- b) River dolphins are an endangered species.
- c) River dolphins are very intelligent animals.
- d) River dolphins live in freshwater, not saltwater.

Like the vampires you might see in a movie, vampire bats drink the blood of other animals to survive. They usually feed off the blood of cows, pigs, and horses. Although the blood sucking itself doesn't hurt the animals they bite, the bats can spread a disease called rabies.

You can infer that...

- a) Vampire bats have special adaptations that help them walk, run, and jump.
- b) Vampire bats usually don't bite humans.
- c) Vampire bats live near farms.
- d) Vampire bats have a lifespan of about 12 years.