

Seasonal Activity Trail Series -
Summer

SUMMER SUN



SUMMER IS HERE AND THE WARM WEATHER GETS EVERYONE OUT AND ABOUT!

FOR SOME ANIMALS IT'S WARM ALL YEAR LONG, DEPENDING ON WHERE THEY LIVE- FOLLOW THIS TRAIL TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHICH LIVE IN THE SEA AND WHICH LIVE IN THE SUN!

FACT

During Summer the Earth's axis tilts toward the sun, so the number of daylight hours increase and the weather gets warmer. This encourages plants to start growing and animals to become active.

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Natural History

**NOW GO TO YOUR RIGHT
AND FIND THE SEA SHELLS**

FACT
4
Sea shells are homes to shell fish molluscs- members of the same family as slugs and snails. Have you ever found shells like these on the beach?

Find the different sea shell below and finish the drawing!



KEYHOLE LIMPET



COMMON MUSSEL



SCALLOP



DOG WHELK

**NOW MOVE ALONG TO
THE BACK OF THE ROOM
AND FIND THE CRABS**



FACT
Crustaceans that live in the deep sea tend to grow much bigger than those in shallow waters- this is known as "deep sea gigantism". Another example would be the giant squid- they grow 30 times bigger than shallow water squid! Scientists think the reason for this is that it's an adaptation to help the animal deal with the enormous water pressure at the bottom of the ocean.

All crabs belong to the crustacean family- this large group includes crabs, lobsters, crayfish, shrimp, krill and barnacles. Most live in water- in the sea, rock pools, streams, rivers and ponds. Some however live on land, like the wood louse.

You'll notice some of the crabs here are very big, but don't worry- these are found in the deep sea- you won't see them walking along the beach!

**MOVE ALONG
THE CASE UNTIL
YOU FIND THE
NORTHERN
STONE CRAB.**

Have a look at the Northern Stone Crab's front claws- one is bigger than the other- why do you think that is? (Circle your answer)

HE LOST IT AND IT'S GROWING BACK

IT WAS SAT ON BY ANOTHER CRAB

IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE THAT

5

NOW MAKE YOUR WAY UPSTAIRS TO CONTINUE THE TRAIL- FIRST STOP IS THE RIVER HOG (BESIDE THE ZEBRA!)

The river hog is a wild member of the pig family living in Africa. It prefers to live in a rainforests near rivers or swamps, but sometimes they can be found in the savanna. When they are born, they are brown and stripy for camouflage. When they get older their hair turns orange-red.

The River hog has a strange shaped ear with a long thin end- why do you think that is? (Circle your answer)

FOR GOOD HEARING

TO SWAT FLIES

TO COOL THEMSELVES DOWN

6

NOW GO AROUND THE CASE AND FIND THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

The Hippopotamus gets its name from the ancient Greek for "river horse". They are herbivores, but are territorial and aggressive- they have been known to kill humans who swim into their territory.



The Hippopotamus is a part of the ungulate group (same group as cow, sheep and deer), and known as an "even toed" ungulate- why do you think that is? (Circle your answer)

THEY HAVE 4 TOES

THEY HAVE 3 TOES

ALL THEIR TOES ARE THE SAME SIZE

7

Despite their appearance, the closest living relatives of the hippo are cetaceans- whales, dolphins and porpoises!

FACT

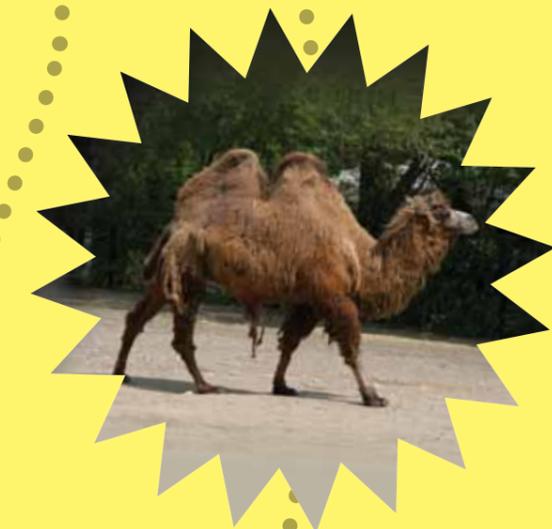


FACT

River hogs, as their name suggest, love the water and are excellent swimmers. However they're not able to hold their breath for long so can only swim short distances at a time

NOW GO TO THE RIGHT AND MAKE YOUR WAY ALONG THE WALL UNTIL YOU FIND THE YOUNG BACTRIAN CAMEL

Camels are domesticated wherever they are found- they provide milk and meat, and are used to carry heavy loads. They are also raced and in the past were ridden into battle, like horses.



FACT

A camel is also an even-toed ungulate and there are two species- the Dromedary or Arabian Camel (with one hump), and the Bactrian Camel (two humps). The camel stores fat in the humps on its back for when food is scarce in the desert. They do not store water in their humps as some people believe.

The Bactrian Camel and the Alpaca belong to the same family, the Camelidae (pronounced camel-id-day). When animals are in the same family, they have some of the same features- what features do both of these animals have (Circle your answers)

LONG NECK

FRONT CLAWS

SIX LEGS

LONG EYELASHES

LONG WINGS

SIX GILLS

COVERED IN HAIR

FEATHERS

LONG NOSE

BIG EYES

LONG TRUNK

WHITE TUSKS

DARK COLOUR

SHORT HOOVES

POINTY TEETH

8

NEARLY THERE! CROSS THE ROOM AND FIND THE PORCUPINE

Porcupines are split into two groups- New World Porcupines (found in America) and Old World Porcupines (found in Africa and Asia). The porcupine you see here is the Common or Crested Porcupine from Africa. They are members of the rodent family.



FACT

The Common porcupine is found across the continent of Africa, but is also found in Italy and Sicily!

The Porcupine is famous for its quills – the spines covering its body. What do you think they use them for? (Circle your answer)

CATCHING PREY

FRIGHTENING PREDATORS

PICKING UP LITTER

9

NOW GO TO YOUR RIGHT AND FIND THE HYENA (HINT: IT'S IN THE BIG CATS' CASE)

Hyenas are found south of the Sahara Desert in Africa. Female spotted hyenas are bigger than the male spotted hyenas, and are also in charge of the pack.

FACT

Have you ever heard of a "laughing hyena"? When a hyena fear or excitement, and usually happens if the animal is being chased.

The Hyena is a member of the Feliformia ("cat-like" carnivores) group, which also includes cats, aardwolves and civets. Name three things that make hyenas look like cats (HINT: if you're not sure, have a look at the other cats in the case)

Three horizontal yellow lines for writing answers.

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WELL DONE
YOU HAVE FINISHED OUR TRAIL SUMMER SUN

Answers: 1) He's camouflaged; 2) By using it's small side fins; 3) Basking Shark; Thresher Shark; Portbeagle Shark, Six Gilled Shark, Topo, Leafscale Shark; 5) He lost it and it's growing back; 6) To swat flies; 7) They have 4 toes; 8) Long neck, Long eyelashes, Covered in hair, Long nose, Big eyes, Dark colour, Short hooves; 9) Frightening Predators; 10) Any of the following: Round ears, Four legs, Sharp teeth, Same shaped head, Large paws.