

# All About Sloths

Sloths are the slowest mammals on the planet. They can spend around 20 hours a day asleep.

Sloths have:

◆ a round head



◆ tiny ears

◆ long legs



◆ a short tail

They look as if they are always smiling.

Sloths mostly eat plants. Some sloths also eat insects and birds' eggs.

Sloths are good swimmers. They are three times faster in water than on land.

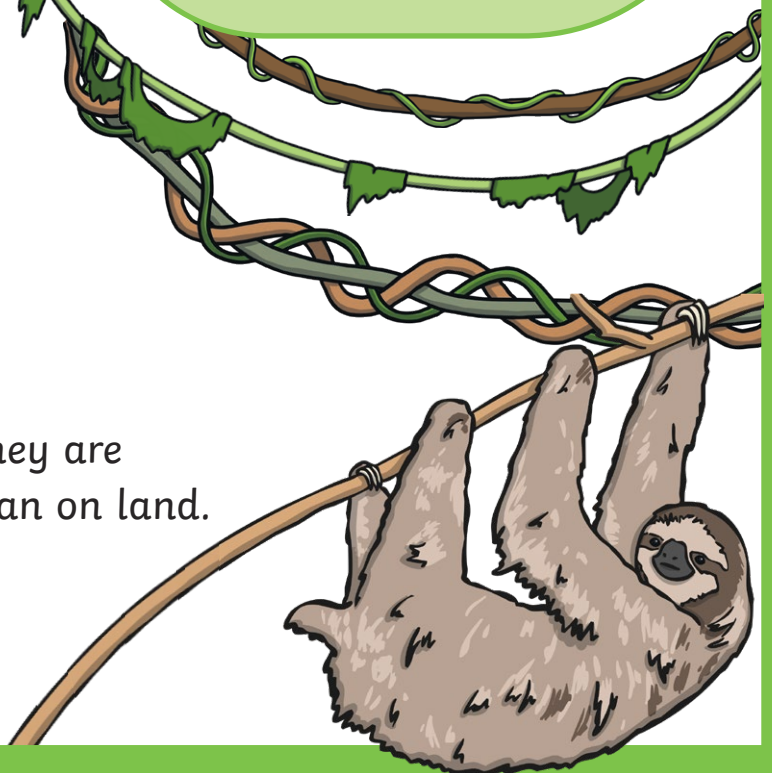
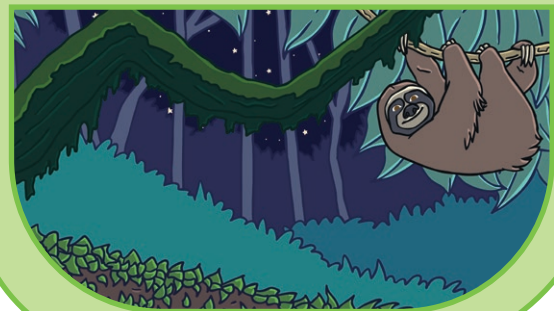
Sloths can turn their head almost all the way around.



Sloths live in the rainforests of Central and South America.

◆ They live in the trees.

◆ They spend most of their life hanging upside down from branches.



# Questions

1. Sloths are the \_\_\_\_\_ mammals on the planet. Tick one.

- slowest
- fastest
- happiest

2. How long can a sloth spend asleep a day? Tick one.

- 5 hours
- 10 hours
- 20 hours

3. Where do sloths live? Tick one.

- beaches
- rivers
- rainforests

4. What do sloths mostly eat? Tick one.

- plants
- snakes
- birds

5. Which one of these sentences is true? Tick one.

- Sloths are very big.
- Sloths are good swimmers.
- Sloths can jump very high.

# Answers

1. Sloths are the \_\_\_\_\_ mammals on the planet. Tick one.

- slowest**
- fastest
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- 5 hours
- 10 hours
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- plants**
- snakes
- birds

5. Which one of these sentences is true? Tick one.

- Sloths are very big.
- Sloths are good swimmers.**
- Sloths can jump very high.

# All About Sloths

Sloths are the slowest mammals on the planet and they can spend 15 to 20 hours a day asleep.

## What Do Sloths Look Like?

Sloths have a round head, tiny ears and long legs. Sloths sometimes have a green colour on their fur because a plant called algae grows on them. This helps the sloths hide from other animals in the leaves.



## Where Do Sloths Live?

Sloths live in the trees in the rainforests of Central and South America. They are strong animals and spend most of their life hanging upside down from branches.



## Did You Know...?

Sloths look as if they are always smiling even if they are in pain.

Sloths climb down from the trees to the ground once a week to go to the toilet.

Sloths have extra bones in their neck that help them turn their head almost all the way around.

## What Do Sloths Eat?

Sloths mainly eat plants and they mostly feed on leaves, twigs, and fruit. Some sloths also eat insects and birds' eggs.

## What Are Sloths Like?

Sloths are good swimmers and are three times faster in water than on land. They can become angry when they are threatened. They bite and use their claws to protect themselves.

# Questions

1. What do some sloths eat? Tick one.

- insects
- birds
- fish

2. Draw **three** lines to match each sentence.

Sloths look as if they  
are always smiling...

Sloths live in  
the trees...

Sloths are good  
swimmers...

and are three times faster  
in water than on land.

even if they are in pain.

in the rainforests of Central  
and South America.

3. Number the facts from 1-3 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- Sloths use their claws to protect themselves.
- Sloths are the slowest mammals on the planet.
- Sloths have a round head, tiny ears and long legs.

4. What helps sloths turn their head almost all the way around?

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5. Look at the section **What Do Sloths Look Like?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'little'.

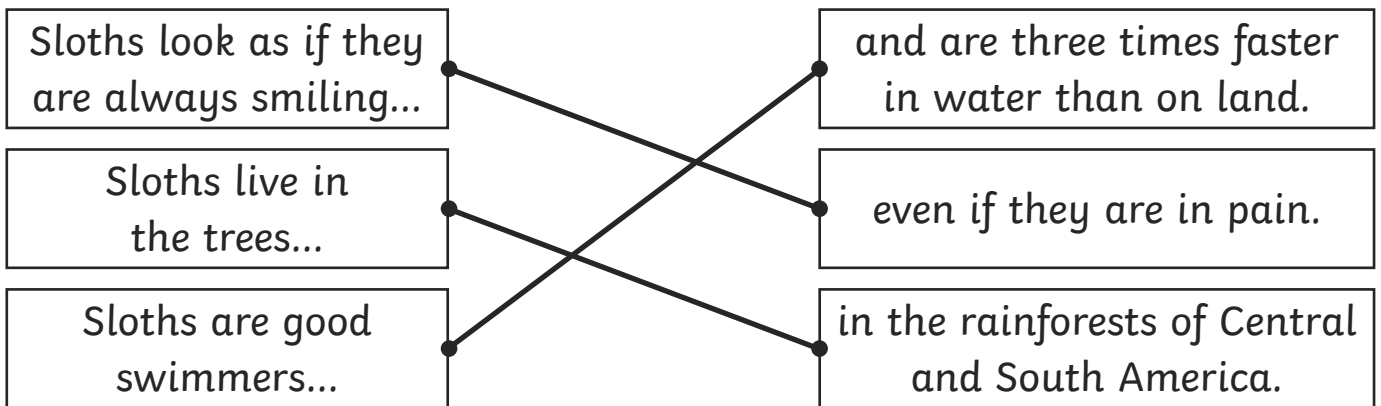
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# Answers

1. What do some sloths eat? Tick one.

- insects**
- birds
- fish

2. Draw **three** lines to match each sentence.



3. Number the facts from 1-3 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- 3** Sloths use their claws to protect themselves.
- 1** Sloths are the slowest mammals on the planet.
- 2** Sloths have a round head, tiny ears and long legs.

4. What helps sloths turn their head almost all the way around?

**Sloths have extra bones in their neck that help them turn their head almost all the way around.**

5. Look at the section **What Do Sloths Look Like?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'little'.

**tiny**

# All About Sloths

Sloths are the slowest mammals on the planet and they can spend 15 to 20 hours a day asleep. There are two types of sloths which are the two-toed sloth and the three-toed sloth. They are called this because they have either two or three claws on their front feet.

## What Do Sloths Look Like?

Sloths have a rounded head, tiny ears, long legs and a short tail. They look as if they are always smiling even if they are in pain. Sloths sometimes have a green colour on their fur because a plant called algae grows on them. This helps sloths hide in the trees from **predators** as their fur blends in with the leaves.



## Where Do Sloths Live?

Sloths live in the trees in the tropical rainforests of Central and South America. They like to live alone. They are strong animals and spend most of their life hanging upside down from branches.



### What Do Sloths Eat?

Sloths mainly follow a plant-based diet and they mostly eat leaves, twigs, and fruit. Some sloths have been known to also eat insects and birds' eggs. It can take up to 30 days for a sloth to **digest** one leaf.

### What Are Sloths Like?

Sloths are normally calm creatures but they can become annoyed when they are threatened by predators. They bite, hiss and use their claws to protect themselves. Sloths are excellent swimmers and are three times faster in water than on land.

### Did You Know...?

There used to be giant sloths who lived on the ground millions of years ago. They were the size of elephants.

Sloths climb down from the trees to the ground once a week to go to the toilet.

Sloths have extra bones in their neck that allow them to turn their head almost all the way around.

### Glossary

**digest:** To break down food inside the body.

**predators:** Animals that hunt other animals.

# Questions

1. Which one of these is **not** a type of sloth? Tick one.

- the two-toed sloth  
 the three-toed sloth  
 the four-toed sloth

2. Draw **three** lines to match each sentence to the section of the text that it is found in.

What Do Sloths  
Look Like?

Sloths are excellent swimmers.

What Do Sloths Eat?

Sloths have a rounded head, tiny ears, long legs and a short tail.

What Are  
Sloths Like?

Some sloths eat insects  
and birds' eggs.

3. Fill in the missing word.

Sloths spend most of their life \_\_\_\_\_ upside  
down from branches.

4. What does the algae on the sloths' fur help them to do?

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5. Look at the section **What Are Sloths Like?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'angry'.

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6. What do you think will happen to sloths if lots of the trees in the rainforest are cut down?

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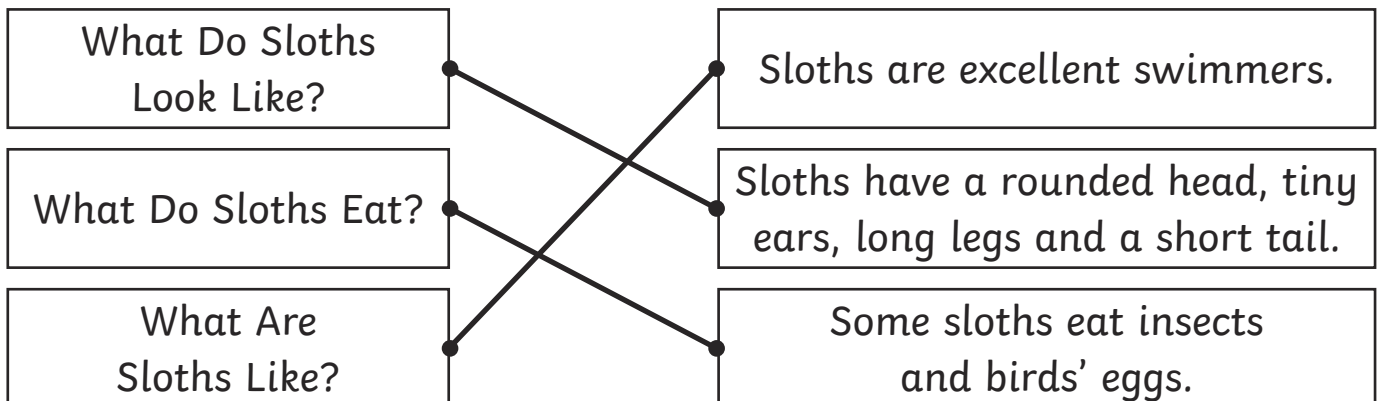
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# Answers

1. Which one of these is **not** a type of sloth? Tick one.

- the two-toed sloth  
 the three-toed sloth  
 **the four-toed sloth**

2. Draw **three** lines to match each sentence to the section of the text that it is found in.



3. Fill in the missing word.

Sloths spend most of their life **hanging** upside down from branches.

4. What does the algae on the sloths' fur help them to do?

**The algae on the sloths' fur helps them to hide in the trees from predators because the green colour blends in with the leaves.**

5. Look at the section **What Are Sloths Like?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'angry'.

**annoyed**

6. What do you think will happen to sloths if lots of the trees in the rainforest are cut down?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the sloths could be in danger because they live in trees and they also mostly eat plants. They may lose their habitat and the food that they eat. They would not survive on the ground.**