

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## All About Capybaras

Have you ever heard of a capybara? This fascinating creature is the world's largest rodent! Found in South America, capybaras are unique animals that live in groups near rivers, ponds, and marshes. They are excellent swimmers and love spending time in the water.



Capybaras are about the size of a large dog. They can grow up to four feet long and weigh as much as 150 pounds! Their bodies are covered with coarse brown fur that helps them stay dry. One of their most interesting features is their webbed feet. These feet help them swim easily through water. Capybaras also have sharp teeth that never stop growing. They use these teeth to chew on tough plants.

These rodents are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Their diet includes grasses, water plants, fruits, and tree bark. Capybaras have a special digestive system that helps them break down the tough fibers in their food. They spend a lot of time eating—up to six hours a day!

Capybaras are social animals. They live in groups of 10 to 20 members, but some groups can have as many as 100! Within these groups, capybaras communicate using a variety of sounds, including barks, whistles, and purrs. These sounds help them warn each other about danger or express their feelings.

One of the capybara's favorite activities is cooling off in the water. They can hold their breath for up to five minutes and even sleep while partially submerged! Their eyes, ears, and nose are located on the top of their heads, allowing them to see and breathe while the rest of their body is underwater.

Capybaras have many predators, including jaguars, caimans, and anacondas. To stay safe, they rely on their excellent swimming skills and the safety of their group. When danger is near, a capybara will dive into the water to escape.

These gentle animals have even become popular pets in some parts of the world because of their calm and friendly nature. However, they are best suited for the wild, where they can roam freely and live as part of a group.

Capybaras are truly amazing creatures. Next time you think of rodents, remember that these giant swimmers are among the most unique animals on Earth!