

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Gentle Giants of the Wetlands

### Open Ended Key

1. Capybaras contribute to their habitat's balance by eating plants, which prevents overgrowth, and by serving as food for predators.
2. Capybaras are a key part of the food chain, providing essential nourishment for predators like jaguars and caimans. This helps maintain predator populations and ecosystem balance.
3. By creating clearings in wetlands, capybaras allow sunlight and water to reach areas that might otherwise remain shaded, helping other plants grow and creating habitats for smaller animals.
4. Observing capybaras, you might notice their social behaviors, such as group grazing, swimming, and taking turns keeping watch. These behaviors are important for their safety and survival.

