MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

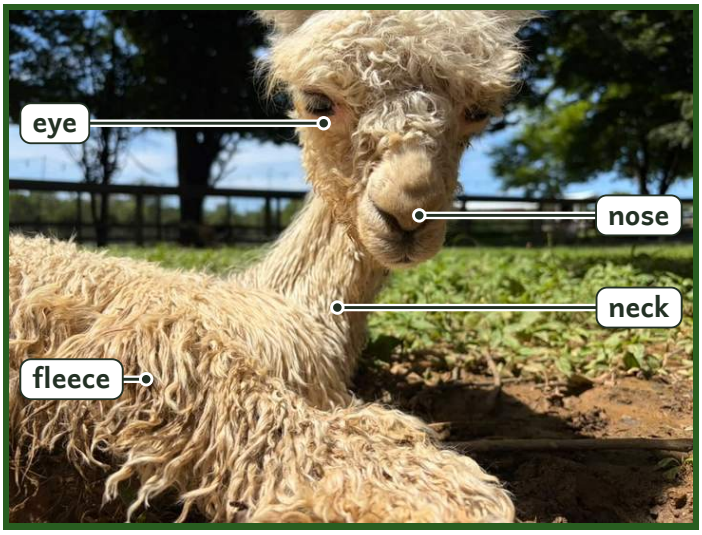
ALPACA

Vicugna pacos

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A young alpaca at our zoo.

Its body

An alpaca has soft **fleece**.
People make clothes from it.
It has soft feet, not hooves.
It is in the camel family.

Its home (habitat)

Alpacas come from South America.
People raised them long ago.
They live in a **herd**.



First raised here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats hay and grass.
It eats other plants too.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby alpaca is a **cria**.
Nimbus is a cria at our zoo.
A cria grows up in a herd.

Fun facts

Alpacas talk with hums.
They can spit when they feel scared.

Words to know

cria: a baby alpaca
fleece: the soft hair of an alpaca
herd: a group of animals that live together

Talk about it

1. What can people make from fleece?
2. How are alpaca feet different from hooves?
3. How do alpacas talk to each other?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/alpaca/ · **Sources:** Oklahoma State University Extension; Animal Diversity Web.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
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ALPACA

Before and after your visit

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GRADES K–2

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. An alpaca has soft fleece. **YES** **NO**
2. An alpaca has hooves. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby alpaca is a cria. **YES** **NO**
4. Alpacas like to live alone. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ fleece
- ☐ long neck
- ☐ big eyes
- ☐ soft feet
- ☐ ears
- ☐ nose

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · humming · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw an alpaca with soft fleece. Add a cria.

Draw here

An alpaca has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular alpaca sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/alpaca/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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