MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

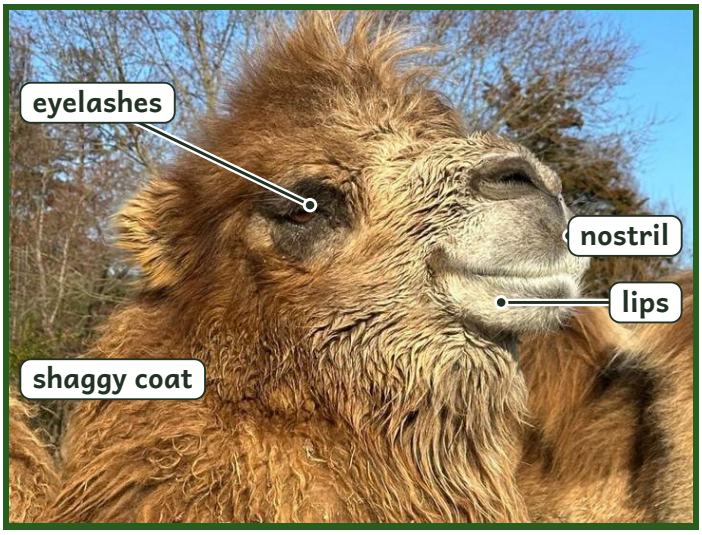
BACTRIAN CAMEL

Camelus bactrianus

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.



This is Lilly. She has a shaggy coat.

Its body

This camel has 2 **humps**.
Humps store fat, not water.
It grows a thick winter coat.
It sheds that coat in spring.

Its home (habitat)

These camels come from Asia.
They live in the desert.
Lilly lives at our zoo.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats plants.
It can eat dry, prickly plants.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby camel is a **calf**.
It can walk soon after birth.
It stays close to its mother.
It drinks her milk.

Fun facts

It can close its nose to keep out sand.
It has 2 rows of long eyelashes.

Words to know

calf: a baby camel
desert: a very dry place
hump: a store of fat on a camel's back
shed: to lose old hair

Talk about it

1. What is inside a camel's humps?
2. How do its nose and eyelashes help?
3. What does a new calf do soon after birth?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/bactrian-camel/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; Wild Camel Protection Foundation; Plumpton Park Zoo records.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

BACTRIAN CAMEL

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the bactrian camel fact sheet for grades K–2 · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

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

1. This camel has 2 humps. **YES** **NO**
2. Humps are full of water. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby camel is a calf. **YES** **NO**
4. A camel eats mostly meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ 2 humps
- ☐ eyelashes
- ☐ nostrils
- ☐ thick coat

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · resting · watching

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a camel in the desert. Show its 2 humps.

Draw here

A camel 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 bactrian camel 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/bactrian-camel/ · 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 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
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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