MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

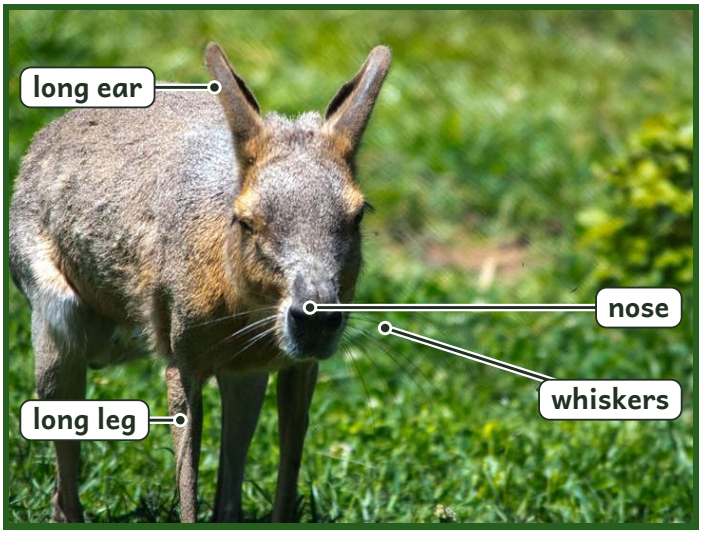
PATAGONIAN CAVY

Dolichotis patagonum

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A Patagonian cavy at our zoo.

Its body

It looks like *a* rabbit.
It is *a* **rodent**, not *a* rabbit!
It has long ears and long legs.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in Argentina.
It is awake mostly by day.
Cavies live at our zoo.



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

Its food

It eats plants.
Grass is *a* main food.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby is *a* **pup**.
Pups stay in *a* **burrow**.
Some families share it.
A mother knows her own pups.

Fun facts

It can bounce on all 4 feet!
Its front feet have 4 toes.
Its back feet have 3.

Words to know

burrow: *a* hole dug to live in
pup: *a* baby cavy
rodent: an animal like *a* mouse or beaver

Talk about it

1. How is *a* cavy like *a* rabbit?
2. What can some families share?
3. How does *a* cavy bounce?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/patagonian-cavy/ · **Sources:** Smithsonian's National Zoo; Animal Diversity Web; Argentina's National Parks biodiversity system; Giannoni and colleagues, 2021
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

PATAGONIAN CAVY

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the patagonian cavy fact sheet for grades K–2 · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

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

1. A cavy is a rodent. **YES** **NO**
2. A cavy is a rabbit. **YES** **NO**
3. A mother knows her own pups. **YES** **NO**
4. A cavy eats meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ long ears
- ☐ long legs
- ☐ nose
- ☐ whiskers
- ☐ toes

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · watching · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a cavy bouncing on all 4 feet.

Draw here

A cavy 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 patagonian cavy 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/patagonian-cavy/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–2: 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
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo