MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

POT-BELLIED PIG

Sus scrofa domesticus · also called Vietnamese potbelly

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal; domestic pig
BREED ORIGIN	Vietnam (Red River Delta)
LOOK	Swayed back; round belly
DIET	Omnivore
SIZE	Zoo guide: 14-20 in at shoulder
WEIGHT	Zoo guide: 100-250 lb; adults vary
LIFESPAN	Zoo guide: 15-20 years
STATUS	Domesticated



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- The first pot-bellied pigs were sold in the U.S. in 1986.
- They first came to North America to supply zoos.
- Pot-bellied pigs can be trained and even housebroken.
- They reach full size at about five years old.
- Mud cools pigs and protects skin from sunburn and flies.

Words to know

Domestic: Kept and bred by people.
Wallow: To roll or lie in mud or water.
Root: To dig in the soil with the snout.
Omnivore: An animal that eats plants and animals.

Think about it

1. What country do pot-bellied pigs come from?
2. Use page evidence to explain how the snout and skin help a pig survive.
3. Why do pigs wallow in mud?
4. Why are some pet pigs given up by their owners?
5. What do pot-bellied pigs eat?

Draw it

Draw a pig rooting. Label its snout, round belly, swayed back and ears. Then design a digging tool inspired by its snout; explain how it solves a gardening problem.

Where the breed began



Breed developed here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-1**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.A**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/pot-bellied-pig/ · **Sources:** Plumpton Park Zoo guide; Oklahoma State University; RSPCA Knowledgebase
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 1-LS1-1 (3.1.1.A)
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POT-BELLIED PIG

Before and after your visit

Page 2 of the Pot-bellied pig fact sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where did people first raise this breed?

Circle one:

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Domestic ☐ Wallow ☐ Root ☐ Omnivore

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the pot-bellied pig.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Where the breed began: A breed from Vietnam's Red River Delta. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Omnivore. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• Use page evidence to explain how the snout and skin help a pig survive.

_____

_____

• Why do pigs wallow in mud?

_____

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/pot-bellied-pig/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.

Grades 1–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-1** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.A**

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