MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

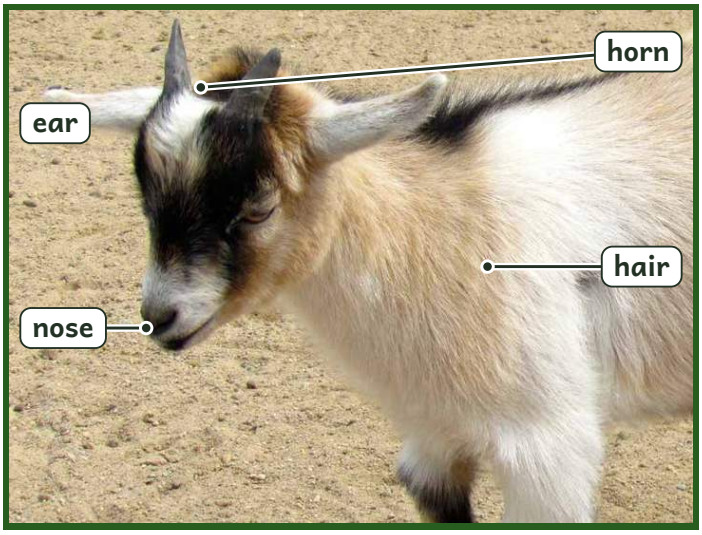
PYGMY GOAT

Capra aegagrus hircus

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 pygmy goat at our zoo.

Its body

A pygmy goat is small.
Males and females have horns.
Hair by its hooves gives it grip.

Its home (habitat)

This goat came from West Africa.
It lives in a **herd**.
Pygmy goats live at our zoo.



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

Its food

It eats leaves and shrubs.
It eats hay and grass too.
It stands up to reach high branches!

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby goat is a **kid**.
It stands soon after birth.
It follows its mother.
She gives it milk.

Fun facts

A herd can make a ring.
Young goats stay safe inside.

Words to know

herd: a group of animals that live together
hooves: the hard feet of a goat
kid: a baby goat

Talk about it

1. How does a goat reach high branches?
2. How does a herd keep kids safe?
3. What does a kid do soon after birth?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/pygmy-goat/ · **Sources:** National Pygmy Goat Association breed standard; Oklahoma State University, Breeds of Livestock; Animal Diversity Web; Oregon State University Extension 4-H
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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PYGMY GOAT

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the pygmy goat 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. A baby goat is a kid. **YES** **NO**
2. Only male goats have horns. **YES** **NO**
3. A goat can stand on its back legs. **YES** **NO**
4. Goats eat meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ horns
- ☐ ears
- ☐ hooves
- ☐ tail
- ☐ a kid
- ☐ a herd

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating climbing resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a goat on its back legs, reaching for leaves.

Draw here

A goat 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 pygmy goat 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/pygmy-goat/ · 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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