

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Goats

Goats were one of the first animals to be domesticated by man around 10,000 to 7,000 BC in the Middle East. Goats belong to the family Bovidae and the genus Capra. They are related to sheep, cows, and antelopes.

Goats can live in a different variety of weather conditions, from high altitudes in mountains to deserts and can adapt to different environments. They can live in mountains, grasslands, savannas, and deserts. This ability allows them to be present all over the world. There are over 300 breeds of goats in the world. Goats are used for their meat, milk, hair, and skin. They are also considered pets.

Female goats are called does or nannies. A male goat is called a buck or a billy. A child goat is called a kid, regardless of whether it is male or female. Depending on the breed, female goats can weigh anywhere between 22 to 220 pounds; whereas the weight of male goats can range from 27 to 275 pounds. People have bred goats for different reasons. They breed them for their meat, cheese, butter, milk, angora, wool, and even some are used for packing and driving.

Most goats have two horns and depending on the breed, sometimes females also have them. The breed determines the shape and size of horns of the goats. Some goats have long hair, and some have short hair, some have short noses, straight noses, and curled noses. Most of them have beards. Goats are said to have very good vision during the day and night. Their pupils are not round, but they are rectangular in shape and the color of their eyes is usually yellow or brown. Their good night vision allows them to graze and browse at night.

Goats also come in different colors. The actual physical features and characteristics of a goat depend on its breed. However, most of them have their tails in an upright position and are short with rarely any hair underneath it.

Goats eat grass and plants, though it is said that they would eat anything. However, in reality, they do not everything and would not touch things that are soiled or unclean. They are also known to have a variety of plant preferences. Goats can also eat different types of shrubs, woody plants, weeds, bushes, and desert scrubs. Goats are ruminants and this means that their stomach is divided into four compartments, which allows them to first chew their food and soften what they have eaten up. Then they re-chew it again. What they re-chew is known as cud. Eating again or re-chewing what they have eaten is called regurgitation. The entire process is called ruminating.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Goats (Cont'd)

The natural life span for goats is between 8 to 12 years, though some can live up to 15 years. The natural predators for goats are bobcats, mountain lions, and coyotes. Goats make a 'baaah' sound, which is known as bleating. They make it if they want to call out for their young, are hungry or stressed, or want attention. Goats can also climb or go under fences and some breeds are able to jump quite high. Goats are known to be very inquisitive and intelligent as they can learn different things. Goats' curiosity leads them to go sniff and smell everything. They will try things if they do not smell bad.

According to legend, goats are the ones that discovered coffee beans. One day the herder found his goats really full of energy and active. He noticed that they had eaten some sort of berries. So he decided to try them out for himself and when he did, he realized that he too was feeling awake and energized.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Goats Questions

### **Multiple Choice:**

1. The number of chambers or compartments in the stomach of goats is:
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. Four
  - d. Six
  
2. A nanny refers to a:
  - a. Adult male goat
  - b. Adult female goat
  - c. Baby male goat
  - d. Baby female goat

### **Fill In:**

3. Goats make a 'baaah' sound, which is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. The pupils of goats are \_\_\_\_\_ in shape.
  
5. Goats are \_\_\_\_\_ and this means that their stomach is divided into compartments.
  
6. Eating again or re-chewing what they have eaten is called \_\_\_\_\_.

### **List three reasons why people breed goats:**

7. \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_

### **True or False:**

- \_\_\_ 10. Goats can eat absolutely anything and have no problem eating dirty foods or things.
  
- \_\_\_ 11. Goats are known to be curious and intelligent.
  
- \_\_\_ 12. Goats can live in any environment except in deserts.

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## Goats Answers

### Multiple Choice:

1. The number of chambers or compartments in the stomach of goats is:
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. **Four**
  - d. Six
2. A nanny refers to a:
  - a. Adult male goat
  - b. **Adult female goat**
  - c. Baby male goat
  - d. Baby female goat

### Fill In:

3. Goats make a 'baaah' sound, which is known as bleating.
4. The pupils of goats are rectangular in shape.
5. Goats are ruminants and this means that their stomach is divided into compartments.
6. Eating again or re-chewing what they have eaten is called regurgitation.

### List three reasons why people breed goats:

Meat  
Cheese  
Butter  
Milk  
Angora  
Wool  
Packing  
Driving

### True or False:

- F 10. Goats can eat absolutely anything and have no problem eating dirty foods or things.
- T 11. Goats are known to be curious and intelligent.
- F 12. Goats can live in any environment except in deserts.