

Sloths — The Slowest Animal in the Jungle



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The sloth is one of the most unusual **animal**s in the world. This slow-moving creature lives high up in the rainforest **tree**s of Central and South America. With its round face and shaggy fur, the sloth looks a little **strange**.

Sloths spend almost their entire lives off the ground. They have long arms and curved claws that are perfect for one thing: **hang**ing. A sloth can hang upside down from a branch for hours. When it wants to move, it will slowly **climb** from branch to branch, never in a hurry.

Everything a sloth does, it does **slow**ly. Even eating takes a long time! A sloth's favorite **food** is leaves, and it can take a whole month to digest just one meal. Sloths also love to **sleep**. Many sloths sleep for ten hours or more every day, curled up high in the trees.

A sloth's fur hides a fun secret. Tiny plants called algae grow on it, turning the fur a soft **green** color. This green fur helps keep the sloth **safe**, because it blends in with the leaves around it. Hungry eagles have a harder time spotting a hiding sloth.

Sloths may move slowly, but they are suited to life in the rainforest. By staying still and quiet, they save energy and stay hidden from danger. Remember the sloth — slow and steady can be a good way to live!

A. Vocabulary

1. animal ____	a. things that people or animals eat to stay alive and healthy
2. tree ____	b. to move up or along something using your hands and feet
3. strange ____	c. the color of grass and leaves
4. hang ____	d. not in any danger; protected from harm
5. climb ____	e. unusual or different from what you expect
6. slow ____	f. to be attached at the top with the rest of your body hanging freely
7. food ____	g. not moving fast; taking a long time to do something
8. sleep ____	h. to rest with your eyes closed and not be aware of things around you
9. green ____	i. a living creature, like a dog, a bird, or a sloth, that can move and fee
10. safe ____	j. a tall plant with a wooden trunk, branches, and leaves



B. True or False

1. The sloth lives in cold, snowy mountains. ____
2. Sloths live in the rainforests of Central and South America. ____
3. A sloth has long arms and curved claws. ____
4. Sloths move very quickly from tree to tree. ____
5. It can take a sloth about a month to digest one meal. ____
6. Sloths never sleep during the day. ____
7. Tiny algae plants can grow on a sloth's fur. ____
8. The green color in a sloth's fur helps it hide from danger. ____
9. Eagles are one of the animals that may hunt sloths. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: climb, slow, sleep, green, safe

1. A sloth likes to _____ slowly from branch to branch.
2. A sloth moves very _____, even when it is eating.
3. Many sloths _____ for ten hours or more every day.

4. Tiny algae plants turn a sloth's fur a soft _____ color.

5. The green fur helps keep the sloth _____ from hungry predators.

D. Comprehension Questions

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1. Where do sloths live, and what do they look like?
2. How do sloths move and spend most of their time?
3. Why does it take a sloth so long to eat?
4. What grows on a sloth's fur, and how does it help the sloth?
5. Why can moving slowly actually help a sloth stay safe?

E. Discussion Questions

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1. Have you ever seen a sloth at a zoo or online? What did you think?
2. What is something you do very slowly? Is that a good thing or a bad thing?
3. Can you think of another animal that uses its color to hide and stay safe?





Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-i, 2-j, 3-e, 4-f, 5-b, 6-g, 7-a, 8-h, 9-c, 10-d

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-climb, 2-slow, 3-sleep, 4-green, 5-safe

D. Comprehension:

1. Sloths live in the rainforests of Central and South America. They have round faces, shaggy fur, and look a little strange.
2. Sloths spend almost their entire lives off the ground, hanging from branches and climbing very slowly from tree to tree.
3. A sloth's favorite food is leaves, which take a long time to digest — sometimes up to a whole month for just one meal.
4. Tiny algae plants grow on a sloth's fur, turning it green. This green color helps the sloth blend in with the leaves and hide from danger.
5. Moving slowly and staying still helps a sloth stay quiet and blend into the trees, which makes it harder for hungry predators like eagles to spot it.

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