

Camel



FASCINATING FACTS

Camels are born without humps. The humps do not store water as once thought but are fatty tissue. **Their mouths have a thick lining allowing them to eat thorny plants.**

Camels have an additional transparent eyelid to help remove sand when trapped in their eyes.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Herbivore
Life Expectancy	40-50 years
Species	Dromedary or Arabian (1 hump) and Bactrian or Asian (2 humps)
Region	Dromedary lives in Middle East and Horn of Africa, Bactrian inhabits Central Asia

Fennec Fox



FASCINATING FACTS

It is the smallest species of Canid in the world. Canid includes dogs, wolves, foxes and jackals. **Their ears are so sensitive that they can hear prey underground.** The soles of their feet are protected from the hot desert floor by thick fur.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Omnivore
Life Expectancy	Up to 14 years
Region	Sahara Desert in North Africa

Crab



FASCINATING FACTS

They breathe with the help of gills so need to stay close to the water when they are on land. Crabs are decapods as they have 10 legs, and the first pair of legs is modified into claws called chelae. **Females can lay thousands of eggs at a time.**

Classification	Crustacean
Diet	Omnivore
Species	Over 850
Life Expectancy	3-4 years
Favourite Food	Algae, fungi, bacteria and marine life such as snails

Jellyfish



FASCINATING FACTS

Jellyfish are plankton and are not strong swimmers. They can easily be beached in coastal areas where strong tides exist.

Classification	Scyphozoa
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	2-6 months for coastal jellyfish
Favourite Food	Plankton, crustaceans and fish eggs
Region	All oceans and especially towards coastal areas

Lizard



FASCINATING FACTS

Some lizards can detach their tails if caught by predators. Lizards are reptiles and cold blooded creatures. **Lizards can smell by tasting the air around them.**

Classification	Reptile
Diet	Omnivore, Herbivore or Carnivore
Species	Over 5000 species
Region	The pictured lizard lives in desert habitats, but other lizards can live in forests, prairies, marshes and rocky areas in all continents apart from Antarctica. Examples of desert lizards include the desert iguana, collared lizard, sonoran collared lizard, spiny lizard and leopard lizard.

Meerkat



FASCINATING FACTS

A group of meerkats is called a **clan, gang or mob**, and can range from **20-50 in size**. Meerkats have a sentry on duty when outside to warn of oncoming predators, and each shift can last up to an hour. **Meerkats are immune to the venom of the scorpions of the Kalahari desert, whereas it is deadly to humans.** Meerkats are great diggers and can burrow out their own body weight in a few seconds.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	6-7 years in the wild
Region	Kalahari Desert in Botswana, Namib Desert in Namibia, South Western Angola and South Africa

Seagull



FASCINATING FACTS

A small claw halfway up their lower leg helps them to sit on high ledges without being blown off. They are also intelligent – they use bread crumbs to attract fish and produce rain like sounds with their feet to attract earthworms.

Classification	Bird
Diet	Omnivore
Species	Over 20
Life Expectancy	10-20 years
Region	Across the world, often in coastal areas

Seahorse



FASCINATING FACTS

They are very poor swimmers. They move by using a small fin on their back that flutters up to 35 times per second and they often prefer to swim in pairs. **Their eyes can move independently of each other (like those of a chameleon).**

Classification	Fish
Diet	Carnivore
Species	Over 40
Favourite Food	Plankton, crustaceans and tiny fish

Scorpion



FASCINATING FACTS

They can dramatically slow down their metabolism to as little as one third when food is scarce. They date back to the Silurian era 430 million years ago. **Approximately 25 species contain deadly venom.**

Classification	Arachnid
Diet	Carnivore
Species	Approximately 1750 species
Favourite Food	Insects and arthropods
Region	They live on every continent apart from Antarctica. Best known for desert habitats (such as the pictured scorpion), certain species also live in high elevation mountains, caves and intertidal zones.

Snake (Horned Viper)



FASCINATING FACTS

You can tell snakes apart from lizards by their **lack of eyelids and external ears**. Snakes can't bite food so have to swallow it whole. **Snakes have flexible jaws to eat their prey.** Their skin is smooth and dry. **Snakes in snake charming performances respond to movement and not sound.**

Classification	Reptile
Diet	Carnivore
Species	Over 2900 species of snakes
Region	The pictured horned viper lives only in desert areas in North Africa eastwards through Arabia and Iran. Other species of snake live on every continent apart from Antarctica.

Sea Snails & Whelks



FASCINATING FACTS

Snails try to get a diet which is calcium rich to keep their shells thick and strong. Certain sea snails are venomous as they have a venom that can be deadly to humans. **There are 600 different species in the family of cone snails.**

Classification	Mollusc
Diet	Omnivore
Region	Across the world's oceans

Starfish



FASCINATING FACTS

Most starfish can shed an arm when attacked and then **regrow it back**. Although most have 5 arms, some have more such as the Sun Starfish which has up to 40 arms. **They have tiny tube feet to help them move.**

Classification	Echinoderm
Diet	Omnivore
Species	About 2000
Region	Across the world in all oceans with the greatest variety of species in coastal areas

Arctic Fox



FASCINATING FACTS

They have incredible hearing aided by their wide, front facing ears. They can locate the exact position of their prey even when beneath the snow.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	7 years
Favourite Food	Lemmings
Region	Canadian Arctic Archipelago (from Melville Island to Ellesmere Island), Greenland, Russia, Norway, Iceland & Scandinavia.

Arctic Hare



FASCINATING FACTS

They can run up to 60kph (40mph). They dig holes in the ground or under snow to keep warm and sleep.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Herbivore
Life Expectancy	Approximately 3-5 years
Favourite Food	Woody plants, mosses and willow
Region	North Greenland, Canadian Arctic Islands and Northern Canada.

Brown Bear



FASCINATING FACTS

Bears have a great sense of smell and can smell food, cubs, a mate or predators from miles away. They have a distinctive shoulder hump which contains super strong muscles to help them dig up roots or tear apart logs to find food. They can run extremely fast – up to 30 miles per hour.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	Up to 35 years
Region	Russia, India, China, Canada, USA, Scandinavia and Carpathian Region (especially Romania).

Deer



FASCINATING FACTS

Most deer are born with spots but lose them within a year.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Herbivore
Species	Includes white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, red deer, reindeer, fallow deer, roe deer, pudu and chital. Most live in forests but certain species live in transition areas between forests and other habitats.
Favourite Food	Leaves
Region	Across the world apart from Australia and Antarctica. Only 1 deer species lives in Africa in the Atlas Mountains.

Harp Seal



FASCINATING FACTS

They have a yellow-white coat at birth for 3 days before developing the iconic white coat for approximately 12 days. Young seals are called Pups. The mother identifies her offspring by smell and will abandon them after 12 days. These seals can grow to about 150-180cm and will weigh 135-180kg.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	About 20 years
Favourite Food	Plankton, squid, jellyfish and crustaceans
Region	Greenland Sea, White Sea, North Atlantic, Arctic Ocean & Newfoundland, Canada.

Penguin



FASCINATING FACTS

Flippers make them excellent swimmers. Underwater, a layer of air in their plumage ensures buoyancy and insulates them. They drink salt water & filtrate the salt out with a special gland.

Classification	Bird
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	15-20 years
Favourite Food	Fish, krill and squid
Region	Most larger ones live in Antarctica such as the pictured Emperor Penguin. Some smaller ones are found in warmer climates such as South Africa and South America.

Hedgehog



FASCINATING FACTS

Each hedgehog has about 5000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year before dropping out and being replaced by a new one. Their snouts are long which helps them forage for food.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Species	15
Life Expectancy	Up to 6 years
Favourite Food	Caterpillars, beetles, earthworms and slugs
Region	Europe, Asia, Africa and New Zealand

Owl



FASCINATING FACTS

Serrated edges on the leading edge of an owl's flight feathers reduce noise in flight allowing them to surprise their prey. An owl's plumage will often match their environment so that they cannot be easily seen in flight when hunting their prey. A group of owls is called a parliament.

Classification	Bird
Diet	Carnivore
Species	About 200
Favourite Food	Small mammals and insects
Region	All areas apart from some islands and Antarctica

Polar Bear



FASCINATING FACTS

They can live on land or sea, and spend most of their time in the sea. They have excellent insulation from the cold with 10cm of blubber.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	25-30 years
Favourite Food	Seals
Region	Arctic Circle including Arctic Ocean and its surrounding seas and land masses.

Walrus



FASCINATING FACTS

Their tusks can reach up to 1m in length. They have two inflatable air sacs which inflate to the size of a beach ball to keep their heads afloat and help them sleep in the ocean.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Carnivore
Life Expectancy	Up to 40 years
Favourite Food	Molluscs and clams
Region	North Pole in the Arctic Ocean and subarctic seas of the Northern Hemisphere.

Stag Beetle



FASCINATING FACTS

The larvae feed for several years on the rotting wood of deciduous trees. They spend most of their life underground as larvae and emerge and transform into adults for a few weeks to find a mate. Male stag beetles use their jaws to wrestle each other for favourite mating grounds.

Classification	Insect
Diet	Omnivore
Species	About 1200
Life Expectancy	3-7 years
Region	Woodland areas across the world.

Squirrel



FASCINATING FACTS

Their sharp curved claws make them excellent climbers. In the UK, the Eurasian Red Squirrel has dramatically reduced since the introduction of the Eastern Grey Squirrel. They twitch their tail to signal danger.

Classification	Mammal
Diet	Omnivore
Species	The most common species of squirrels living in woodland areas include the Eastern Grey Squirrel, Fox Squirrel, American Red Squirrel and Eurasian Red Squirrel. There are over 265 species of squirrel including 44 species of flying squirrel.
Region	Woodland areas across the world.