



sanctuaryone
at Double Oak Farm

The Wonderful Life of Pigs

Today we are going to explore the wonderful life of pigs. This is not a cohesive guide about pigs, but this is a great place to start. After doing this activity please continue to learn about these smart and beautiful animals.

Pigs come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. At Sanctuary One we have two types of pigs' pot belly and Yorkshire or Yorkshire mixes. Can you tell who is who?



Pictured above are pig noses. Pigs do not have very good eyesight, but they have an amazing sense of smell. They use their noses to root around in dirt to find roots and insects to eat. Pig noses are covered in little hairs. What do you think they use those hairs for?



sanctuaryone
at Double Oak Farm



Pigs walk on hooves. They have two toed hooves and two dewclaws. To learn more about pig feet participate in our [Whose Foot is That](#) activity.



In this picture we have Gumball and Pickles. These two do everything together. Pigs are pack/group animals making them naturally social creatures. The next time you are the farm check out the pig pen you might just listen in on a pig conversation.



Here we have Sodapop. What differences do you see between the Gumball and Pickles, and Sodapop?



sanctuaryone
at Double Oak Farm

Sodapop is a potbelly pig and Gumball and Pickles are Yorkshire pigs. You can tell that Sodapop is a potbelly because he has the round belly that hangs low to the ground. He isn't fat; that is just their natural body shape. Gumball and Pickles do not have that round belly even though they are much bigger.

How much do you think Sodapop weighs?

How much do you think Gumball weighs? To get a better idea of how much Gumball weighs watch the Muddy pig video.

There is a wide variety of sizes in pigs. Humans have bred pigs to live in many different habitats and for many different purposes. Sodapop's breed originated from the jungle and Gumball's breed lives in open fields. Sodapop weighs around 150lbs and can get up to 200lbs. Gumball weighs around 800lbs and can get up to 1000lbs.

For the next couple of questions, you will need to watch the Muddy pig video if you haven't already.

Even though they vary in size and shape these pigs have many things in common. Did you notice in the Muddy pig video Gumball was covered in mud? Pigs roll around in mud on warm summer days. Why do you think they do this?

What does your body do when you are hot?

Pigs do not have the ability to sweat that is why they roll around in the cool wet mud. It is a way to control their body temperature like the way we sweat. The mud also protects them from getting sunburned.



sanctuaryone
at Double Oak Farm

For this section of the activity watch the Pig Grooming video.

Even though pigs roll in mud to stay cool they are actually very clean creatures. To help them stay clean we give our pigs a good brushing. In the video you can see that pigs are friendly and do enjoy human company. They are also very smart. Like many animals' pigs require enrichment. Enrichment could be a new toy, new treats, playing or going on a walk. To see an enrichment activity in action, watch the Apple Bobbing video.

Pigs can even learn tricks! To watch Sodapop do a trick watch the video Sodapop Sits for Food. Pigs are very food motivated and smart making it easy to teach them. They are smarter than most dogs.

Now that you have learned about how smart, loving and interesting pigs can be. Using your new knowledge about pigs write a story about a pig's day from the pig's point of view or draw a picture of what a pig's day would look like. We would love to see what you came up with. Feel free to have your parents share with us (info@sanctuaryone.org). Thank you for participating in Sanctuary One Education. Hope you enjoyed the activity. Oink Oink!