

Oops! Some words have fallen out of the story below. Use the words in the word bank to complete the story.

More about Mzee

Mzee is an Aldabra (al-DAH-brah) tortoise. The Aldabra tortoise is _____ found on the Aldabra Islands in the Indian Ocean. Today these _____ are home to about 150,000 of the tortoises.

The Aldabra tortoise is the largest _____ of tortoise in the world. A male can grow to be four feet in _____ and can weigh up to 550 pounds (250kg). One giant male at the Fort Worth Zoological Park weighs over 790 pounds (360kg)!

For the most part, the Aldabra tortoise is an _____. The tortoises will eat grasses, leaves and woody plant stems. Sometimes they will eat small bugs and even dead animals. In _____, they enjoy apples and bananas.

It is thought that _____ took Mzee from his island home to eat him. He may have reached Africa by escaping the ship or surviving a shipwreck.

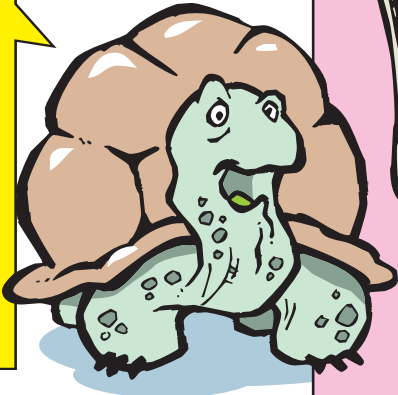
WORD BANK

SAILORS SPECIES LENGTH CAPTIVITY ISLANDS USUALLY HERBIVORE

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to determine the meaning of words.

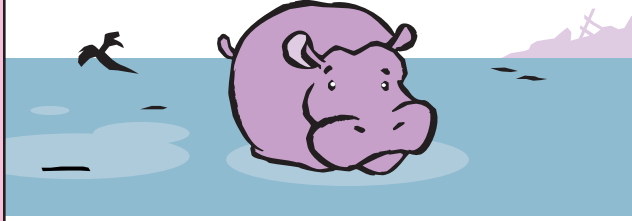
Owen and Mzee: A Most Unusual Friendship (A True Story!)

Hi there! My name is Mzee. I'm about 130 years old (I don't bother to keep track of my birthdays anymore). Here's the story of how I met my best friend named Owen.



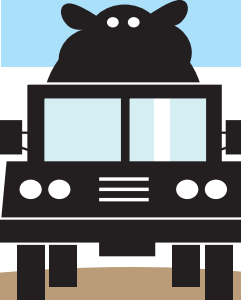
Back in 2004, there was a terrible tsunami that caused unbelievable damage and loss of life in Southeast Asia and Africa. Your parents probably read about it.

In Kenya, a baby hippo was left stranded on a coral reef. He was too tired and frightened to get back to shore by himself. Hundreds of villagers and visitors worked together to rescue the young hippo.



A man named Owen Sobien was able to tackle the slippery hippo long enough for others to drape a net over him. The hippo was named Owen in his honor.

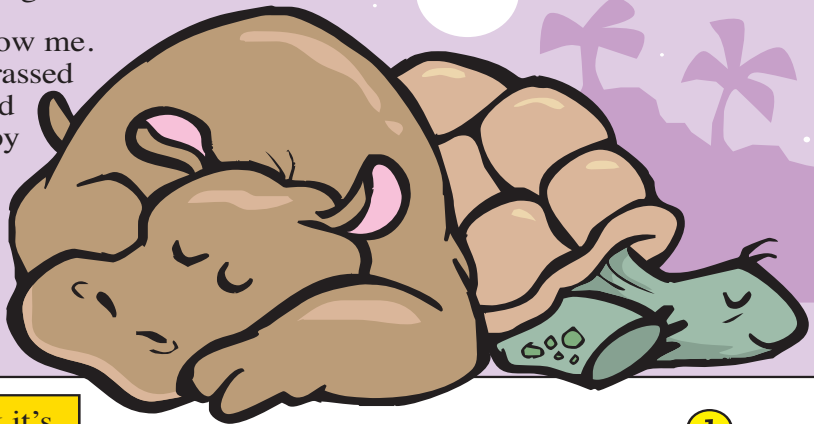
Owen was moved to Haller Park, Kenya, where I live.



Now, I've always preferred to be by myself. But Owen just kept following me around.

If I walked away, he'd follow me. At first, I felt a little embarrassed and annoyed when he would crouch beside me like a baby hippo does with its mom.

But Owen was a nice enough kid. And without a mother, he needed someone to show him how to find food, so I did.



People wonder why we became such close friends. Some think it's maybe because my round shell looked a little like another hippo to Owen. What do YOU think?

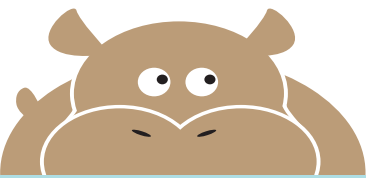


Standards Link: Life Science: Animal patterns of behavior are related to the nature of their environment.

Hippo or Tortoise?

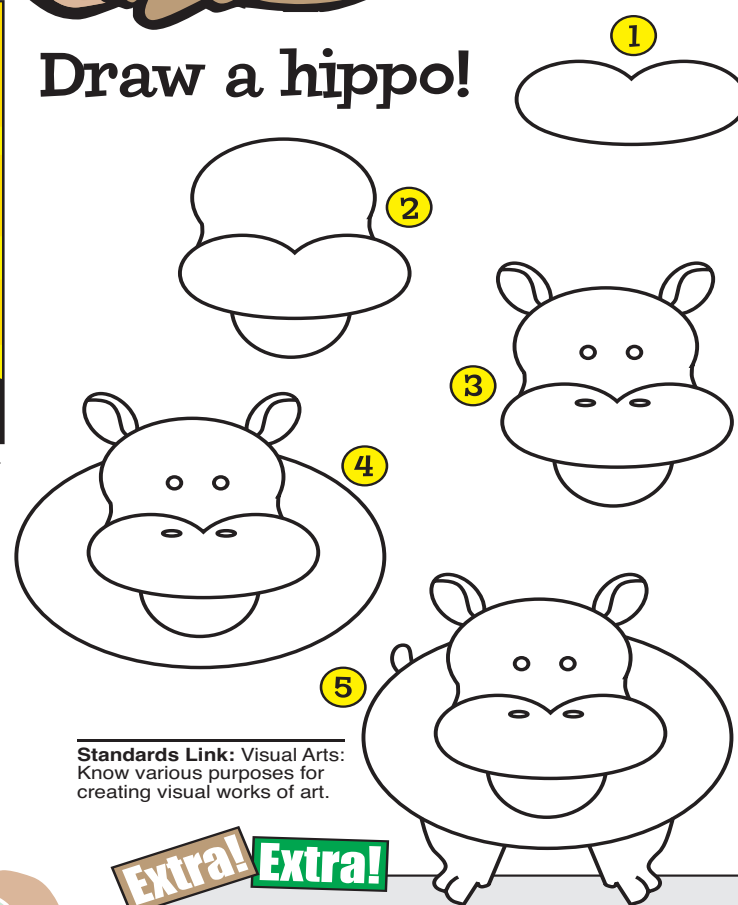
Do the math to find out which facts describe a hippo and which describe a tortoise. If the answer is less than 10, it describes a hippo. If the answer is more than 15, it describes a tortoise. If the answer is between 10 and 15, it is true for both hippos and tortoises.

- Lives to be 200 years old. $9 + 7 =$
- Lived with the dinosaurs. $19 - 4 =$
- Is an herbivore. $6 + 5 =$
- Likes to swim. $7 + 5 =$
- Its closest living relative is a whale. $3 + 6 =$
- Can run faster than a human. $4 + 3 =$



Standards Link: Number Sense: Add and subtract whole numbers.

Draw a hippo!



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know various purposes for creating visual works of art.

Friendship Search

- Look through the newspaper and find:
- a friendly face
 - a person acting like a friend
 - a nice thing to do for a friend
 - a word that describes you as a friend

Standards Link: Health: Know behaviors that communicate care, consideration and respect of self and others.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Unscramble the letters to find out what the word *hippopotamus* means in Latin.

ETWAR SHORE

Unscramble the letters to find out what Mzee means in Swahili.

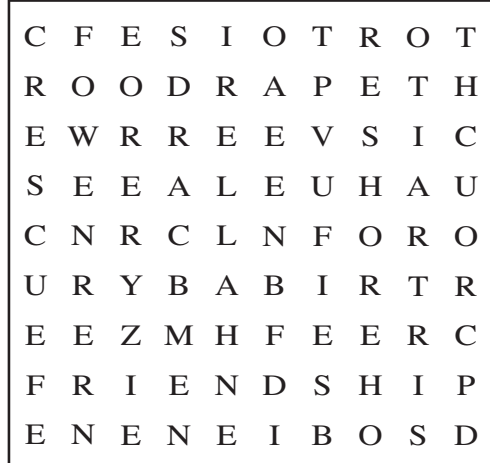
SWIE DLO NMA

Standards Link: Reading: Read and follow directions appropriate to grades 1-5.

Kid Scoop Word Search

- FRIENDSHIP
TSUNAMI
HALLER
MZEE
TORTOISE
CORAL
SHORE
OWEN
SOBIEN
CROUCH
RESCUE
TRAIT
DRAPE
BABY
REEF

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

What a Character!

Friendship is ...



... spending time together.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **STRAND**

The verb **strand** means to be left in a strange or dangerous place.

The baby hippo was **stranded** on a coral reef.

Try to use the word **strand** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Rhyme Time

Look through the newspaper for pairs of words that rhyme. Use these words to write a little poem and give your poem to a friend.

Standards Link: Word Analysis: Identify words that rhyme; Writing Applications: Write various forms of genres including poetry; Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What is as big as a hippo but weighs nothing?

ANSWER: A hippo's shadow.

Write On!

Best Friends

Who's your best friend? What makes a friend a **best** friend? Give examples of reasons this person is your very best friend.

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