

A close-up photograph of a sloth hanging from a tree branch. The sloth has long, shaggy brown fur and is looking upwards. Its right hand is visible, with three long, curved claws gripping the branch. The background is a dense, green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

ALL ABOUT SLOTHS

Hang, munch, and explore the slow
and gentle tree-dwellers!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE SLOTHS!

Sloooooowly... a furry animal hangs upside down in a tree—it's a sloth! **Sloths** are calm, quiet animals that live high in the trees. They move very slowly and spend much of their time resting, eating leaves, and staying hidden among branches.





WHAT SLOTHS ARE LIKE

Sloths are **mammals**, which means they have fur and drink milk from their mothers when they are babies. They have long arms, strong curved **claws**, and soft fur. Sloths have small faces and gentle expressions. Some sloths have two toes, and others have three toes on their hands and feet.





WHERE SLOTHS LIVE

Sloths live in warm **rainforests**. They spend almost their whole lives in trees. The thick leaves and branches help hide them from **danger**. Sloths like places with lots of trees where they can hang, rest, and eat safely.

FROM BABY TO ADULT

A sloth's life begins as a baby, sometimes called a **pup**. The baby clings to its mother's fur and stays with her as she moves through the trees. The baby drinks milk and slowly learns how to climb and hang. Over time, the baby grows into an adult sloth.



WHAT SLOTHS EAT

Sloths are **herbivores**, which means they eat plants. They mostly eat leaves, along with some buds and fruit. Leaves do not give much energy, so sloths move slowly to save energy. Their stomachs work slowly to help digest tough leaves.



INSIDE A SLOTH'S DAY

Sloths spend most of their day resting. They sleep many hours and wake up to eat. Sloths move, eat, and rest all in the trees. Their slow life helps them stay safe and calm.





HOW SLOTHS MOVE

Sloths move very slowly and carefully. They use their long arms and **claws** to hang, climb, and reach for leaves. Moving slowly helps them save energy and stay hidden. Sloths can also swim, using slow, smooth movements.





KEEPING SAFE

Sloths stay safe by blending in with the trees. Their fur often grows green **algae**, which helps them match the leaves around them. Moving slowly makes them hard to notice. Staying high in trees helps keep them away from danger.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sloths move very slowly to save energy.
- Some sloths have two toes, and some have three.
- Sloths spend most of their lives in trees.



QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Sloths are mammals.
2. (True or False) Sloths move very fast.
3. (True or False) Sloths eat leaves.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Sloths live in trees.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Sloths are the laziest animals.
6. Where do sloths live?
7. What do sloths eat?
8. How do sloths move?
9. Why do sloths move slowly?
10. How do sloths stay safe?



ANSWERS



1. True. Sloths are mammals.
2. False. Sloths move very slowly.
3. True. Sloths eat leaves.
4. Fact. Sloths live in trees.
5. Opinion. "Laziest animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live in warm rainforests.
7. They eat leaves and plants.
8. They hang and climb slowly.
9. Moving slowly saves energy.
10. They blend in and stay high in trees.

GLOSSARY

Algae – tiny water plants that grow in wet places

Claw – a sharp, curved nail that helps an animal hold on or climb

Danger – something that can hurt an animal

Herbivore – an animal that eats plants

Mammal – an animal with fur or hair that drinks milk as a baby

Pup – a baby animal, like a baby dog or baby sloth

Rainforest – a warm, wet forest with lots of rain and many plants

Sloth – a slow-moving mammal that lives in rainforests and spends time in trees



FUN WITH SLOTHS

*Q: Why did the sloth
cross the branch?*

A: It'll tell you... later.