

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 06



Hippopotamus

HIPPOPOTAMIDAE

HABITAT:

Around rivers and lakes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

DIET:

Herbivores (plant eaters). Can eat around 80 pounds of grass a night.

FUN FACTS:

Nicknamed the “River Horse.” Very strong swimmers. 3rd largest land mammal on earth. Mostly active at night.



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD AN ANIMAL BUT NOT SEEN IT?

I remember the first time I heard a hippopotamus. I was fourteen years old and spent the summer living in a tent in Malawi, Africa, on my first mission trip. Our team was camped next to the shore of Lake Malawi. Some evenings, we could hear the hippopotamuses that lived in the lake. A hippopotamus makes a sound like a loud snorting noise. We never saw the hippopotamuses, and hearing them was a little scary. We were told never to go in the lake because the hippopotamuses can be dangerous.

I have seen hippopotamuses at zoos, and although I maintain a healthy respect and fear of them, they are less scary knowing what they look like. If we only hear an animal, our imagination can go crazy thinking about what the sound might be.

My son had a similar experience when he heard coyotes howling. He was frightened until he could see the animal making the noise. If we are afraid of something unfamiliar, we can learn about it to become less fearful. We should always give wildlife space and be careful around God’s creatures while learning everything we can about them!

Psalm 104:24 says, “O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.”

God knows everything about each creature He made! We can ask Him to help us study, learn about, respect, and protect what He has made.

What creature are you scared or nervous about that you could study this week?

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March 18, 2024

