

Name: _____

One Hump or Two?

Camels have learned to adapt to live in the hot dry deserts in Asia. One way is they are able to hold water inside their bodies so they can go without drinking water for a long time.

Camels can have one or two humps! One humped camels are called dromedary camels while Bactrian camels have two humps. The cells in the humps store fat that provide energy for the camel when food is hard to find.

Did you ever wonder why a camel's legs are so long? Their long legs help keep them further away from the hot ground below. They also have a thick and shaggy coat that they shed in the warm season. Their light brown colored coats blends into the environment and reflects the sun so they don't get too hot.

How many rows of eyelashes do you have? Humans have one, but camels have two rows of very long thick eyelashes to protect their eyes from blowing sand.

How would you like to eat thorny cactus plants? Camels have a long tongue and strong mouth which allows them to easily eat those prickly plants that grow so well in the dry desert habitat.

Let's talk toes! A camel's feet are flat and wide and when they walk they move both legs from one side of their body forward, then the other side. Both of these physical adaptations keep them from sinking into the sand.

Why are a camel's legs so long?



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One Hump or Two?

Directions: Read the article about camels then answer the questions that follow. Use details and evidence from the article to support your answer.

1. Explain how camels can survive in both hot and cold climates.

2. Why do camels need a strong tongue and mouth?

3. Explain another physical adaptation that camels have?

4. How are a camel's eyelashes different from ours?

