All About Hippos

The hippopotamus has a large body, stubby legs and a large head. The head features jaws that open up to 150 degrees with long tusk-like teeth and a wide nose covered in sensitive bristles. The placement of ears, eyes and nostrils on the top of the skull allows it to stay nearly submerged in water all day, yet breathe easily and remain aware of its surroundings.

At night, the hippopotamus moves inland to graze on short grasslands. Despite their considerable bulk, hippopotamuses are graceful underwater swimmers and can run faster than humans on land, at an estimated 18-30 miles per hour.

The hippopotamus is one of the few mammals to give birth underwater. At birth, calves weigh 60 to 100 pounds and must swim to the surface to catch their first breath. For the next five years, they remain with their mothers, who fiercely protect them from lion, crocodile and adult male hippopotamus attacks.
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What do they look like?

Where do they live?

What do they eat?

Facts:

Name _____________________

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