

Animal Facts

The people of the desert called the camel *Ata Allah*, “God’s Gift.” It has provided desert nomads with transportation, shade, milk, meat, fur, and hides. Look through the camel

fact-pack to learn more about these desert travelers. Use the numbers and figures to solve the problems that follow.

Camel Fact-Pack

Weight: about 80 pounds at birth and between 1,000–1,500 pounds as adults

Height: 6 feet at the shoulder and 7 feet at the hump

Life Span: 30–40 years

Humps: Arabian camels have one hump. The hump doesn’t store water; it stores fat for food. A camel can go 5–7 days without food or water.

Body Temperature: Humans start to sweat when the temperature rises above 98.6°F. Camels can raise their body temperature 11°–14°F to reach up to 104°–106°F. They sweat very little.

Legs and Feet: long, skinny legs with feet as wide as dinner plates; don’t sink into the sand

Strength: can carry up to 990 pounds; usual load around 330 pounds

Speed: carrying a rider, 80–120 miles per day; carrying a 400-pound load, about 40 miles per day

Food and Water: eats almost anything; when thirsty, can drink up to 21 gallons in 10 minutes—about one-third of its body weight

Project

Use information from the Camel Fact-Pack to solve these math problems.

- 1 If a camel weighs 1,500 pounds, what is the maximum percentage of its body weight that it can carry?
- 2 What is a camel’s normal body temperature?
- 3 How long would it take a camel rider to travel a distance of 300 miles in the desert?
- 4 How long would it take a camel to carry a 400-pound load the same distance?
- 5 Make a rough guess. How many pounds of water can a camel guzzle in ten minutes?
- 6 Expand the Camel Fact-Pack. Find more facts and statistics to fill a poster for the classroom.