



Year of the Pig

PIG ENGINEER

Pigs are smart, have great long-term memories, can eat almost anything, and are surprisingly athletic thanks to lots of clever adaptations! In this activity, you're going to learn about the incredible features of pigs that make them special.

Not just messy mud

Pigs roll in mud to help cool themselves down. Mud dries and holds onto the water, which then evaporates slowly, providing a long lasting cooling effect for the pig.

Super Snout Skills

Pigs have an excellent sense of smell that allows them to detect food buried in the ground!

Pig snouts are prehensile (they can move and feel), allowing them to move objects out of the way with their nose!

Warm Blubber

Pigs have a layer of subcutaneous fat that helps to keep them warm, as they don't have much fur.

Marvellous Memory

Pigs have a good long-term memory. They can remember where food is hidden months later!

Big Lungs

Pigs have very large lungs for their body size, allowing them to move quickly for short periods of time.

Ultimate Eaters

Pigs can eat roots, fruit, grains, vegetables, dairy, and eggs. They are omnivorous foragers with a tough digestive system.

Cloven Hooves

Pigs have cloven hooves, meaning they have two toes split down the middle instead of a single solid hoof. When walking in soft mud, pigs can split their toes, which increases the surface area of their hooves, spreading the pig's weight over a larger area and helping it avoid sinking in wet mud.





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Match the part of the pig to the function.



For finding food underground.



For cooling down



For remembering where food is hidden.



For speed in short bursts.



For extra stability when walking on mud.





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Design a pig using the adaptations above and some extras to make a superpowered pig!

Ideas

The Sprinter -
large lungs and
long legs for
speed.

The
Mountaineer -
narrow body
and bendy
ankles for
climbing.



The Mud Master -
extra large hooves
for muddy ground

