

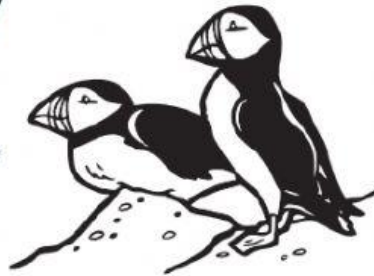
PUFFINS

Puffins are little birds that look a lot like penguins. They have black feathers and a black head. Their tummies are made up of white feathers. They have white faces and yellow, orange, and black beaks. Puffins are like tiny fluffy balls when they first hatch.

They like to live in groups. Puffins never live alone. They love to be with other puffins. They live in places that have rocks by the water. They build nests in the rocks with small pieces of feathers and twigs. When they are not in their nests, they are swimming in the ocean.

Momma puffins catch small fish to feed the babies. They go out and catch the fish and bring it back to the nest to feed. They do not have baby puffins until they are five years old.

Puffins are pretty birds. They have to live in groups to be happy.



STORY QUESTIONS

- 1.** What is the meaning of “tiny fluffy balls” from the text?
 - a. They look like big clouds.
 - b. Their bodies are small and soft like cotton balls.
 - c. They are huge and can not move.
 - d. They look like fat balls of snow.
- 2.** This story tells you . . .
 - a. how a puffin lives.
 - b. things a puffin eats.
 - c. many facts about puffins.
 - d. what puffins like to do on a rainy day.
- 3.** A new title for this might be . . .

a. “Puffin Facts.” b. “A Day with a Fat Puffin.”	c. “My Pet Puffin.” d. “Puffins by the Rocks.”
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SAOLA

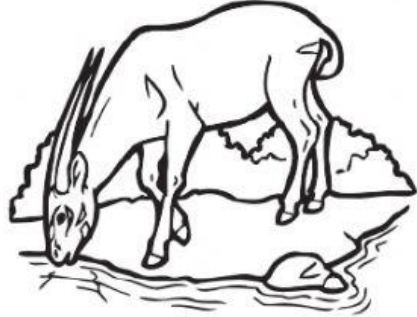
Scientists found a new animal in 1992 in Vietnam. They did not know about the Saola before. Saola (sah-oh-la) means long wooden sticks.

A Saola looks like a deer and loves to hide in the forest. It has long, straight horns. These horns look like giant toothpicks. They are from 12 to 20 inches long.

The Saola is short. It weighs about 220 pounds. The Saola has white lines on its face. Its hair is short and brown. The Saola's eyes are very big. It has a dark black strip down under its fluffy tail.

People do not know very much about the Saola. The people who hunt them make traps or send dogs to catch them.

Saola is a new animal that has been found in the world. Will there be more?



STORY QUESTIONS

1. When the author added an "s" to *horn* (*horns*), what did it mean?
 - a. The Saola has more than one horn.
 - b. The Saola has no horns.
 - c. The Saola has only one horn.
2. A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. *Found* means ...
 - a. put in a new place.
 - b. did not have.
 - c. lost.
 - d. discovered.
3. What do the horns of the Saola look like?
 - a. small candy bars
 - b. long wooden sticks
 - c. giant toothpicks
 - d. long pens or pencils

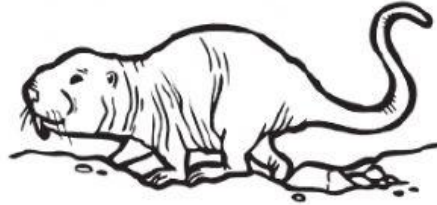
MOLE RAT

Mole rats are strange. They have no fur, but live in the ground. Mole rats look like rats, and they live like bees or ants. They have very sharp teeth. The teeth are located in the front of their mouths. Two teeth are on top, and two teeth are on the bottom.

They live with many other mole rats. One mole rat has babies, and she is the queen. She can have up to one hundred babies a year. The other mole rats bring her food. They make sure she is safe, and they care for her babies.

All of the mole rats have jobs. Small mole rats find food and keep the tunnel clean. The big mole rats dig. The biggest mole rats make sure the mole rats are safe.

Mole rats dig and dig. Scientists think they dig to look for roots to eat. Some mole rats can now be seen in zoos.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the text, what is a mole rat?
 - a. an animal that looks like a rat, but lives like a bee or an ant
 - b. an animal that looks like a bird, but acts like a dog
 - c. an animal that looks like a cat, but acts like a bird
2. Using the words around it, other words for *queen* would be ...
 - a. the mole rat that takes care of the babies.
 - b. the mole rat that cleans out the nest.
 - c. the mole rat that finds food.
 - d. the mole rat that is the boss.
3. **Homophones** are words that sound alike, but mean different things. Which one is used correctly?
 - a. Sum of the holes are small.
 - b. Some of the mole rats dig for roots.
 - c. Sum mole rats can be seen in the zoo.