Reading: a description of an animal

1 **Read about the babirusa, then complete descriptions a–e with words from the box.**

The Babirusa



The babirusa is not the most famous animal in the world, but it is certainly one of the most interesting. The word 'babirusa' itself is Malay and means 'pig-deer', although the animals look more like pigs than deer. These wild pigs live in the forests of Indonesia and are endangered – there are fewer than 10,000 of them left.

There are four species of babirusa. The most well known of the species are brown or grey in colour and have tails up to 32 centimetres in length. They eat fruit, grasses and leaves as well as other small animals. The males are larger than the females. Like elephants and walruses, these animals have large teeth that come out of their mouths. But babirusas are unusual. The upper tusks of the males come out of their snouts, not their mouths. They look like horns.

deer ~~tusks~~ walrus forest snout

a A set of large pointed teeth, like those of an elephant. tusks

b An animal that moves fast. The males have horns called antlers. _____

c A large area of land covered with trees. _____

d The nose of an animal, especially that of a pig. _____

e An animal that lives in and around the sea at the North Pole. It has thick skin and two long tusks. _____

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Writing 6

1 **Complete the table with the information from the box.**



The rainforests of Madagascar Aye-aye

Is nocturnal, so sleeps in the day

Insects and fruit Spends its life in trees

Has got big eyes and ears and a tail longer than its body

Doesn't look like a primate but is related to apes, chimps and humans

Name	
Where it lives	
What it looks like	
How it lives	
What it eats	

2 **Write about the aye-aye. Use the information in the table in Activity 1 and the description of the babirusa to help you.**

Help with Writing

A short description of an animal should give as much information as possible in a few words. Try to answer possible questions in your description, e.g. *How big is it*? *How long does it live*?

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