

Truth or Hogwash

Objective

Students will work in teams to play a game in which they answer true/false questions about swine and then research and develop questions of their own.

Background

Pigs were among the first animals to be domesticated, probably as early as 7000 BC. Forty million years ago, hoglike animals roamed forests and swamps in what are now Europe and Asia. By 4900 BC hogs were domesticated in China. By 1500 BC they were being raised in Europe.

In 1539 Hernando de Soto landed at Tampa Bay, Florida, with 13 pigs, the first in North America. By the time of deSoto's death, three years later, his hog herd had grown to 700.

Colonists in Pennsylvania developed the practice of "finishing" the hogs on corn (feeding them nothing but corn in the few weeks before butchering them). This practice improved the quality of the pork and laid the foundation for the modern pork industry. In the colonial US, hogs were driven to market in large droves over trails that later became routes used by the railroads.

Hog raising became an important commercial enterprise during the 1800s when the Midwest farm regions were settled. The new Erie Canal system gave farmers a way to get their hogs to the cities back east. Farmers started calling their hogs "Mortgage Lifters" because the profits from their sales helped pay for the new homesteads.

The hogs would eat corn, grass, clover or even table scraps that would have otherwise have become garbage. The word "hogwash," meaning something that is worthless, came from this practice. In some areas hogs would be turned out to find their own food. Hogs would roam freely, eating what they could find— acorns from the ground or roots, which they dug from the ground with their snouts. On Manhattan Island, New York, the hogs rampaged through grain fields until farmers were forced to build a wall to keep them out. The street running along this wall became Wall Street.

Most people had pig pens near their homes and fed the hogs just enough to keep them returning home from their daily forage for food. Everybody had a different hog call so that only their pigs responded to their call. These calls might be a high pitched "sooie," a low pitched "wark," or a simple "here pig here."

Lard was in high demand for baking, so pork producers grew pigs that were very fat. People could eat foods that were higher in fat then because most were involved in vigorous physical labor that caused their bodies to burn large amounts of fat and calories.

Today most people are not as active as they were back then, and health conscious consumers want leaner meat. To meet this demand pork producers have changed the way they feed and raise their swine. Most cuts of pork

Standards

GRADE 2

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—
2.L.2,4,5,6; 2.RI.4;
2.SL.1,3,6

GRADE 3

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—3.L.1,3;
3.SL.1,3,4,6

GRADE 4

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—4.RI.3,7;
4.W.7,9; 4.SL.1,3,5; 4.L.1,3

GRADE 5

COMMON CORE

Language Arts—5.W.7,8,9;
5.SL.1,4,6; 5.L.1

Materials

poster board

pocket folders

blank index cards

glue

reference books

today are as lean or leaner than similar cuts of beef and chicken. Pork has a high nutrient density (a high level of nutrients for the level of calories). It provides protein, iron, zinc and B Vitamins (thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and Vitamin B12).

Many people picture a hog farm as a smelly, muddy place where pigs wallow in muddy pens. Years ago, pigs would lie in the mud to protect themselves from overheating and biting insects. Today most hogs are kept indoors in buildings where producers can control temperature, humidity and other environmental factors. These buildings are well-lit and clean, so the producer can better monitor and promote the health of the hogs. Some operations use indoor and outdoor facilities. Healthy, unstressed animals are more profitable, so producers try to keep their hogs comfortable and happy.

Byproducts made from swine include adhesives, plastics, shoes, paint, glue, crayons, chalk, and chewing gum. Pig heart valves are used to replace diseased or damaged human heart valves. Hog skin is used as a dressing in treating serious burns, and hog pancreas glands provide insulin to treat diabetes.

Language Arts

1. Create a game board by gluing the pocket folders on the poster board in even numbered rows and columns.
 - Students will brainstorm what they know about pigs.
 - Write adjectives students use on the chalkboard.
 - Copy Student Worksheets A and B front to back.
 - Cut on dotted lines to make game cards.
 - Explain the meaning of the word “hogwash” (nonsense; speech that is worthless, like the table scraps formerly fed to hogs.)
 - Place the cards in a bowl.
 - Students will take turns drawing a card from the bowl to read to the class.
 - After each question is read, students will call out “truth” or “hog-wash.” As an alternative, let students take turns answering the questions.
 - After students have given their answers, the student who drew the card will read what is on the back.
 - Discuss answers after each one is read.
2. Read and discuss background.
 - Divide students into groups of four or five.
 - Provide books, encyclopedias and other resource information about swine. (See the “Links” section on the website for online resources.)
 - Students will work in groups to create questions about swine in four or five different categories (nutritional value, waste management, history, byproducts, etc.)
 - Students will write the questions on index cards with the correct answers written on the back. Each statement should be assigned a value of 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50 points.
 - Write values on pocket folders, and place the cards in the appropriate

folders.

—Divide students into teams of four.

—Draw cards from the folders.

—Teams will take turns answering the questions.

—Teams will continue answering questions and accumulating points until they respond incorrectly to a question. As an alternative, let teams take turns so each team gets a chance to answer questions.

3. Students will create their own hog calls, and have a hog calling contest.

—Invite a panel of judges to determine the best call, or let students vote.

Extra Reading

Black, Michael Ian, and Kevin Hawkes, *A Pig Parade is a Terrible Idea*, Simon and Schuster Children's, 2010.

Geisert, Arthur, *Hogwash*, Houghton-Mifflin for Children, 2008.

Gibbons, Gail, *Pigs*, Holiday House, 2003.

Mansfield, Howard, and Barry Moser, *Hogwood Steps Out: A Good, Good Pig Story*, Roaring Book, 2008.

Ray, Hannah, *Pigs (Down on the Farm)*, Crabtree, 2008.

Steig, William, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Weisner, David, *The Three Pigs*, Clarion, 2001.

Wolfman, Judy, and David Lorenz Winston, *Life on a Pig Farm*, Lerner, 2002.

Vocabulary

boar—A mature male swine.

commercial—Of, relating to, or being goods, often unrefined, produced and distributed in large quantities for use by industry.

gilt—A young female swine that has not had a litter.

hog—A large swine, weighing over 250 pounds.

hogwash—Garbage fed to hogs; swill; Worthless, false, or ridiculous speech or writing; nonsense.

lard—The white solid or semi-solid rendered fat of a hog.

lean—Containing little or no fat.

manure—Animal dung, compost or other material used to fertilize soil.

pig—A small swine, weighing less than 250 pounds.

pork—The flesh of a pig or hog used as food.

snout—The projecting nose, jaws, or anterior facial part of an animal's head.

sow—A mature female swine.

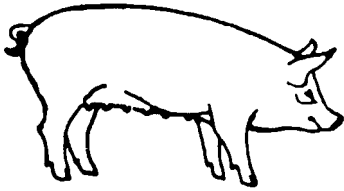
swine—Any of the family of mammals having short legs, cloven hooves, bristly hair and a hard snout used for digging.

Name _____

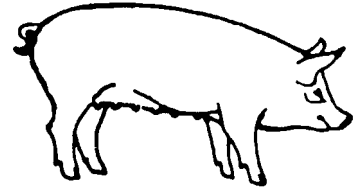
Truth or Hogwash

A

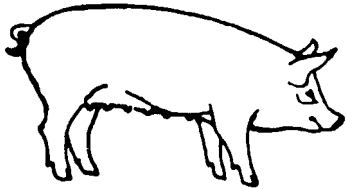
1. Pigs eat and eat and really “pig out.”



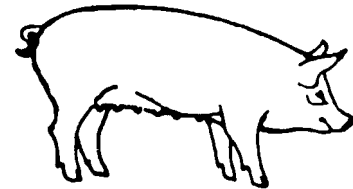
2. Pigs are not stupid. They are as smart as dogs.



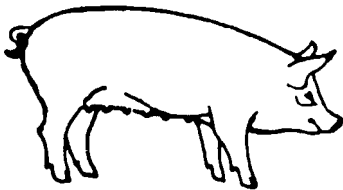
3. Pigs never grow to weigh more than 1,000 pounds.



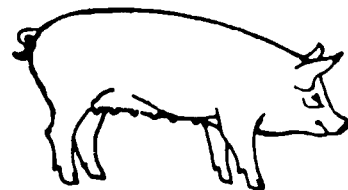
4. Pigs have small eyes and poor eyesight.



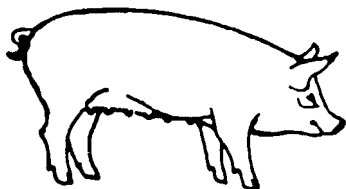
5. Pigs are dirty animals that love to wallow in the mud.



6. Pigs have rings in their noses to keep them from smelling.



7. Pigs enjoy listening to music.



Name _____

Truth or Hogwash

2. Truth: They can be taught to do tricks such as fetching. They have even been taught to do important jobs. In war they have served as mine sniffers in battlefields.

1. Hogwash: they stop eating when they have had enough.

4. Truth: But they have a strong sense of smell.

3. Hogwash: The heaviest hog in history, Big Bill, weighed 2,552 pounds.

6. Hogwash: The rings are used to keep them from rooting, or digging up the earth, with their snouts. This is a natural behavior of hogs in the wild, who dig for roots to eat. It can cause a lot of damage on a farm.

5. Hogwash: They are cleaner than most farm animals. They roll in the mud to cool off because they have no sweat glands. They love to take showers.

7. Truth: Pigs are curious and like to keep busy. Some farmers entertain their pigs with beach balls and old tires.

Name _____

Truth or Hogwash (answers)

1. Pigs eat and eat and really “pig out.”

Hogwash: they stop eating when they have had enough

2. Pigs are not stupid. They are as smart as dogs.

Truth: They can be taught to do tricks such as fetching. They have even been taught to do important jobs. In war they have served as mine sniffers in battlefields.

3. Pigs never grow to weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

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Truth: But they have a strong sense of smell.

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Hogwash: They are cleaner than most farm animals. They roll in the mud to cool off because they have no sweat glands. They love to take showers.

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7. Pigs enjoy listening to music.

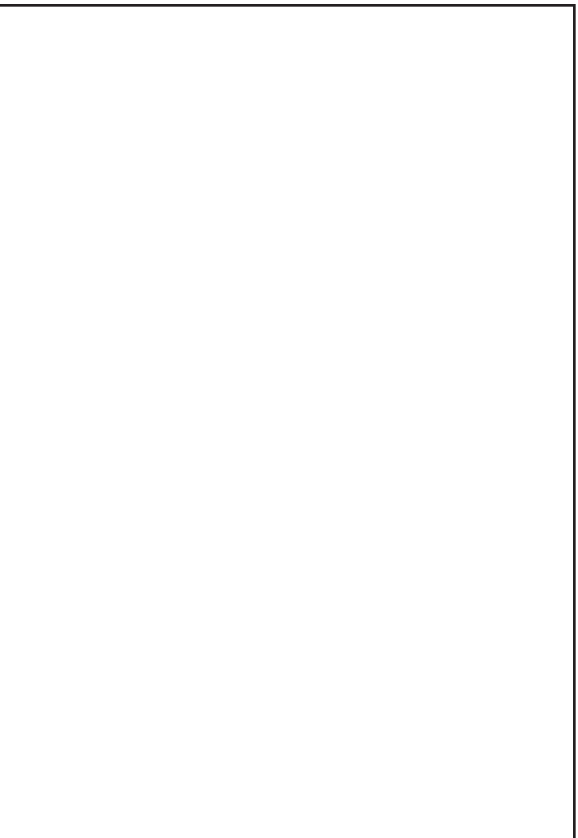
True: Pigs are curious and like to keep busy. Some farmers entertain their pigs with beach balls and old tires.

Truth or Hogwash

Place Swine Fact Cards in the correct box.

(Correct answers are on backs of cards.)

Truth



Hogwash

