



Explorations in Agriculture

TRUTH OR HOGWASH

PURPOSE

Students will work in teams to play a game in which they answer true/false questions about pigs.

TARGETED GRADE LEVEL

3rd-5th grade

MATERIALS

- Resource A (print 1 copy front to back. Cut on lines to make 12 game cards. Make sure the numbers for the question and answer match.)
- Resource B: Hogs: from Producers to Plates Handout
- Bowl or hat



ACTIVITY

1. Scan through the Hogs: from Producers to Plates.
2. Take a few minutes to discuss the information. Some possible questions to facilitate discussion:
 - What were you surprised to find out about pigs?
 - What information confirmed something that you already knew about pigs or hogs?
 - How do pigs impact your life?
 - What are some words or phrases that we use that involve the terms hog, pig, etc. (Examples: pig out, go hog wild, that's hogwash). Discuss why you think the phrases came about. Tell students that the term **Hogwash** means – swill, slop, nonsense – foolish or meaningless words or actions
3. You will be the moderator for the game Truth or Hogwash. Divide the group into two teams. Give each group a clipboard with blank paper.
4. The moderator (you!) reads the following rules:
 - I (moderator) will draw one card and read the statement.
 - Each team will quietly discuss the statement and determine if it is **True** or if the statement is **Hogwash**.
 - I will allow 30 seconds for discussion, then each team must write Truth or Hogwash on their writing surface. At the end of 30 seconds I will say “show your answers” then each team must hold up their writing surface with their answer.
 - Each team that has the correct response will get one point. The first team to get five points (or whatever amount the moderator determines) will win.
5. Play the game! Remember to keep score and recognize the winning team.

Continued

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Science

Assign students to groups and have them research one of these areas about hog production:

Nutrition

Products from pigs

Caring for pigs

Life cycle of pigs

History of pigs

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Minnesota Science Standards and Benchmarkss

3.6.7.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

3.1.1.1.1 Provide evidence to support claims, other than saying “everyone knows that,” or “I just know,” and question such reasons when given by others.

National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes

T2.K-2b Identify animals involved in agriculture production and their uses (i.e. work, meat, dairy, eggs).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Pork Commodity Page for kids at mnagmag.org/commodities/



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

1

Truth or Hogwash

Hogs will “pig out” or overeat.

2

Truth or Hogwash

Female hogs, called sows, are pregnant for 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days before giving birth.

3

Truth or Hogwash

Hogs lay in the mud because they are lazy and dirty.

4

Truth or Hogwash

On modern hog farms, hogs are fed table scraps and garbage.

5

Truth or Hogwash

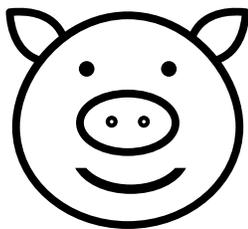
Most hogs are raised in temperature controlled buildings.

6

Truth or Hogwash

A hog is ready to go to market when it weighs between 260-280 pounds.

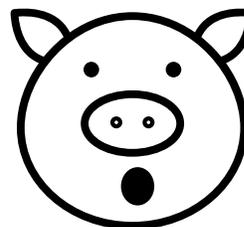
2



TRUTH

Sows are pregnant for about 114 days before they give birth to a litter of piglets. Average litters are 10-14 piglets.

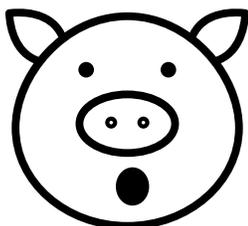
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HOGWASH

Hogs will only eat until their energy requirements have been met. When compared to humans, hogs eat more frequently throughout the day and in smaller amounts.

4

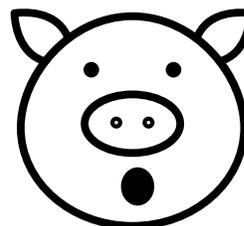


HOGWASH

Pigs are fed carefully balanced rations matched to their age and weight.

Ration – amount of feed consumed by one animal for one day.

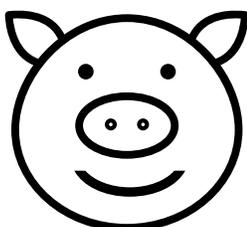
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HOGWASH

Pigs cannot sweat like humans. They will lie in mud to cool themselves. As the mud dries on their skin, it evaporates and cools the pig. The mud can also provide a protective barrier against the sun.

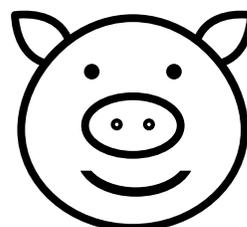
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TRUTH

After the fat, bones and organs are removed, a 270 pound hog ends up as a carcass of about 185 pounds. From this, about 140 pounds will become cuts of meat.

5



TRUTH

On most MN farms, pigs live in clean, modern buildings that protect them from weather and predators. Temperature is carefully controlled. Fans and sprinkling systems cool pigs in summer. Heat lamps warm them in winter.