

Name: _____

One Hump or Two?

by Kelly Hashway



Do you know what the hump of a camel is used for? If you answered to store water, guess again. This rumor about camels storing water in their humps has been around for a long time, but it's actually not true. A camel's hump is a storage place for fatty tissue.

Most animals, including humans, store fat throughout their bodies, beneath their skin. But camels store their fat in one place, their hump.

A hump can weigh
is most likely beca
because they ha
scarce, they need



PREVIEW

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he answer
eating
e food is

Camels have amazing survival skills built into their bodies. Their humps contribute to the camel staying cooler because all the body fat is concentrated to one area instead of being spread throughout the body. Also camels are great at handling changes in body temperature. They need to reach temperatures over 106 degrees Fahrenheit before they begin to sweat. And when they do sweat, it evaporates while on the camel's skin, instead of on its coat. This cools the camel much faster. Their coats also help them adapt to the heat. While the coat is thick, it reflects the sunlight and protects the camel from the heat that rises off the desert sand.

An adult camel measures just over six feet tall at its shoulder and over seven feet tall at its hump or humps. There are two kinds of camels, those with one hump and those with two humps. Camels with one hump are called Dromedary or Arabian camels. They live in the dry deserts in West Asia. Camels with two humps are called Bactrian camels. They live in Central and East Asia.

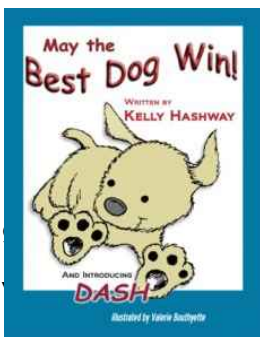
Besides the
50 years. They co
camels can go long periods of time without drinking water, and they can drink about 26
gallons of water at a time. If that's not interesting enough, camels have three sets of eyelids.
Two of these sets come complete with eyelashes, while the third set is skin. Camels can also
close their nostrils.



etween 40-
that

So whether a camel has one hump or two, it is one amazing creature that is very well adapted to its environment.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog fight.

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1. What is a camel's hump used for?
 - a. to store water
 - b. to store fat
 - c. to store food
 - d. to carry riders
2. How does the color of a camel's coat help it to survive in the desert?

3. Fill in



Camels.
camels.

Camels with two humps are called _____ camels.

4. How long can a camel live?
 - a. up to 5 decades
 - b. up to 5 centuries
 - c. up to 5 millennia
 - d. up to 5 generations
5. Which sentence is an opinion?
 - a. A camel's hump can weigh as much as 80 pounds.
 - b. When camels reach temperatures over 106 ° F, they begin to sweat.
 - c. Besides their humps, camels have a lot of interesting features.
 - d. Bactrian camels live in Central and East Asia.

Now Try This: Make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast Bactrian camels and Dromedary camels.

Name: _____

One Hump or Two?

In the article, "One Hump or Two", you learned many interesting facts about camels.

Write a made-up story titled, "My Pet Camel." Use some of the facts from the article in your story.



 **~ PREVIEW ~**
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ANSWER KEY

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1. What is a camel's hump used for? **b**
 - a. to store water
 - b. **to store fat**
 - c. to store food
 - d. to carry riders
2. How does the color of a camel's coat help it to survive in the desert?

The light color reflects sunlight, keeping the camel cool.

3. Fill in the blank lines.

Camels with one hump are called **Dromedary** or **Arabian** camels.

Camels with two humps are called **Bactrian** camels.

4. How long can a camel live? **a**
 - a. **up to 5 decades**
 - b. up to 5 centuries
 - c. up to 5 millennia
 - d. up to 5 generations
5. Which sentence is an opinion?
 - a. A camel's hump can weigh as much as 80 pounds.
 - b. When camels reach temperatures over 106 ° F, they begin to sweat.
 - c. **Besides their humps, camels have a lot of interesting features.**
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Now Try This: Make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast Bactrian camels and Dromedary camels.

ANSWER KEY

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Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. e n v i r o n m e n t environment
hint: the place where a person or animal lives
2. s u r v i v a l survival
hint: ability to live
3. e v a p o r a t e s evaporates
hint: liquid dries up and becomes a gas
4. A s i a Asia
hint: largest continent in the world
5. n o s t r i l s nostrils
hint: openings on the nose that allow air to enter the body
6. c o n c e n t r a t e d concentrated
hint: gathered in one place
7. t e m p e r a t u r e temperature
hint: measurement of heat