

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



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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.

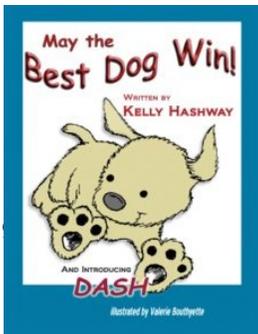
Besides their humps, camels have a lot of interesting features. They can live between 40-50 years. They can carry about 400 pounds and run up to 40 miles per hour. It's true that



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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 has his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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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?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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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.

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# One Hump or Two?

## Vocabulary Activity



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

1. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ v i r \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ e n \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** the place where a person or animal lives



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4. \_\_\_ s i \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** largest continent in the world

5. n \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ i l s \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** openings on the nose that allow air to enter the body

6. \_\_\_ o n c e \_\_\_ \_\_\_ r \_\_\_ \_\_\_ e d \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** gathered in one place

7. \_\_\_ e m \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ a t u \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** measurement of heat

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# 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.



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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**

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

## ANSWER KEY

# One Hump or Two?

### 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.



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7. **t e m p e r a t u r e**  
hint: measurement of heat

temperature