



Match the questions with their answers

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 What type of habitat do sloths live in? | A Almost 360 degrees |
| 2 What grows on sloth's fur? | B Four |
| 3 What do sloths eat? | C Sleep |
| 4 Where do sloths spend almost all of their time? | D In Central- and South America |
| 5 How many chambers does a sloth's stomach have? | E Buttercup |
| 6 In what country is the Sloth Sanctuary located? | F Eagles, jaguars and snakes |
| 7 What is the name of first sloth rescued by the Sloth Sanctuary? | G Once a week |
| 8 How often do sloths defecate? | H Mostly leaves |
| 9 Where do sloths live? | I Algae |
| 10 Sloths do a lot of this. | J Green |
| 11 What are the sloths' primary predators? | K In trees |
| 12 Should sloths be kept as pets? | L Costa Rica |
| 13 How far around can a Three-fingered sloth (Bradypus) turn its head? | M Rainforest |
| 14 How do sloths protect themselves? | N Camouflage |
| 15 What color does a sloth's fur sometimes appear? | O No |



Pria is a Bradypus or Three-fingered sloth—you can tell by the dark bands around her eyes.



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ANSWER KEY & DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 M The **rainforest** is the sloths' natural habitat.
- 2 I The sloth has developed natural camouflage by allowing **algae** to grow in its hair. Algae creates a miniature ecosystem and supports the moths that live in the sloth's hair. There can be up to 120 moths living on a single sloth.
- 3 H Sloths are **folivores** (leaf eaters) and herbivores (plant eaters).
- 4 K Sloths prefer to stay way up **in the trees**. When their habitat is divided by roads or human habitation, sloths are forced to descend to the ground—very dangerous for these slow-moving animals.
- 5 B Sloths have **a large, four-chambered stomach** and extremely slow rate of digestion. It takes about a month for a sloth to digest a meal. The four-chambered stomach is constantly full, so they can't eat very much on a daily basis. As a result, they have very little extra energy than what they absolutely need. This explains generally why sloths are so slow-moving. They are not lazy—instead, they are efficient at using the energy (calories) their diet provides.
- 6 L **Costa Rica**
- 7 E **Buttercup**
- 8 G Sloths descend from the trees **once a week to defecate**.
Video: [Attenborough Says Boo To A Sloth | Life Of Mammals | BBC Earth YouTube](#) (duration 2:54 min)
- 9 D In **Central America and South America**. They are truly animals of the Americas, as they are not found anywhere else on Earth.
- 10 C **Sleep**
- 11 F **Eagles, jaguars and snakes**
- 12 O No! Sloths may look cuddly and cute, but **they are not suitable as pets**. Being a pet is a terrible experience for the sloth. They require a specific type of environment and food source.
- 13 A **Almost 360 degrees**. Bradypus have evolved with specialized neck vertebrae to allow this flexibility so it can scan for predators without turning its whole body and wasting precious calories/energy to do so. Whereas most other mammals have seven cervical (neck) vertebrae, Bradypus have nine and Choloepus have only five.
- 14 N **Camouflage**. Blending in with its surroundings is very important for a slow-moving animal, preventing it from being noticed by potential predators.
- 15 J **Green**. In the rainy season, the algae makes the hair appear green in color.