

Pygmy hippos weigh around 180-270kg, which is less than a fifth of the weight of a common hippo.

They stand less than a metre in height.

They have a rounder, shorter snout than the larger species, with smaller, less protruding nostrils.

Pygmy hippos are native to the forests and swamps of West Africa.

Their feet are less webbed than common hippos because they spend more time on land than in the water.

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They have greenish-black skin, and produce a pinkish fluid (called blood sweat) that protects their skin from sunlight and harmful bacteria.

Hippos and whales shared a common semi-aquatic ancestor that branched off from other artiodactyls around 60 million years ago.

They can get up to a top speed of 30km per hour.



For the Wild