

Scientists find animal with biggest ears

9th March, 2021



Have you ever wondered what animal has the biggest ears? Of course, it's the African elephant. We all know this. Scientists know this. However, scientists have looked at what animal has the biggest ears for its body size. The elephant has big ears but it also

has a giant body. Zoologists from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City have found out which animal has the biggest ears relative to its body size. And the answer is... the long-eared jerboa. Not many people know about this cute, big-eared creature. It is a rodent. It lives in the deserts of China and Mongolia. It is a nocturnal creature, which means it is active at night and sleeps during the day.

Zoologist Mary Ellen Holden described the jerboa. She said its body measures about 10 centimetres (not counting its long tail). Its ears are 3.8 to 5 cm long. This means its ears are 40 to 50 per cent as long as its body length. The elephant's ears are just 17 per cent of its body length. Professor Holden said: "The jerboa has the longest ears for the size of its body in the entire animal kingdom." Professor Holden explained why some animals have large ears. They usually live in very hot areas. Large ears help an animal to keep cool in the heat. Their ears are large, thin and have many tiny blood vessels. The blood releases heat from the body into the air, which helps the animal cool down.

Sources:
livescience.com / bollyinside.com / nationalgeographic.com

Writing

Ears are very important and beautiful. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

wondered / ears / African / elephant / body / size / answer / creature / rodent / active zoologist / measure / entire / animal kingdom / hot areas / cool down / blood / air

True / False

- a) The African elephant is the animal with the biggest ears. T / F
- b) The African elephant doesn't have the biggest ears for its body size. T / F
- c) A jerboa has the biggest ears relative to its body size. T / F
- d) The long-eared jerboa is more active during the day than at night. T / F
- e) The long-eared jerboa is 10cm long from head to tail. T / F
- f) An elephant's ears are 17% as long as the length of its body. T / F
- g) Animals with large ears usually live in cooler regions. T / F
- h) The long-eared jerboa's ears help to keep it cool in the heat. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. wondered | a. discovered |
| 2. giant | b. emit |
| 3. found out | c. functional |
| 4. cute | d. whole |
| 5. active | e. lovable |
| 6. described | f. thought about |
| 7. entire | g. normally |
| 8. usually | h. very small |
| 9. tiny | i. huge |
| 10. release | j. detailed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Have you ever wondered what animal has the biggest ears?
- b) What do you think of your ears?
- c) What animal has the cutest ears?
- d) What animal has the strangest ears?
- e) What do you know about how our ears work?
- f) What do you think of elephants' ears?
- g) What do you know about rodents?
- h) What do you know about nocturnal animals?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. We all | a. 3.8 to 5cm long |
| 2. scientists have looked at what animal | b. a giant body |
| 3. it also has | c. vessels |
| 4. Not many people know | d. know this |
| 5. it is active at night and | e. about 10 centimetres |
| 6. its body measures | f. cool down |
| 7. Its ears are | g. about this |
| 8. in the entire animal | h. sleeps during the day |
| 9. many tiny blood | i. kingdom |
| 10. helps the animal | j. has the biggest ears |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you want to know about the jerboa?
- What different functions do your ears have?
- How do you keep cool in the heat?
- What would it be like to have really great hearing?
- What sounds do you like and dislike?
- How important is hearing compared to the other senses?
- What questions would you like to ask the zoologists?

Spelling

- nwedored what animal has the biggest ears
- ietnsictss know this
- it also has a ignat body
- alrtevie to its body size
- this cute, big-eared racutere
- It is cnrutnoal
- its body samueers about 10 centimetres
- just 17 per cent of its body egnlth
- in the ntiere animal kingdom
- They usually live in very hot raeas
- tiny blood essvels
- The blood elasres heat from the body

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. e	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. g	9. h	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Koalas

You think koalas are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there animals aren't as cute. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): elephants, pigs or sheep.

Role B – Elephants

You think elephants are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there animals aren't as cute. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): koalas, pigs or sheep.

Role C – Pigs

You think pigs are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there animals aren't as cute. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): elephants, koalas or sheep.

Role D – Sheep

You think sheep are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there animals aren't as cute. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): elephants, pigs or koalas.

Speaking – Cute Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the cutest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| • long-eared jerboa | • elephant |
| • koala | • sheep |
| • tiger | • tortoise |
| • rabbit | • pig |

Answers – True False

a T	b T	c T	d F	e F	f T	g F	h T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.