

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LLAMAS

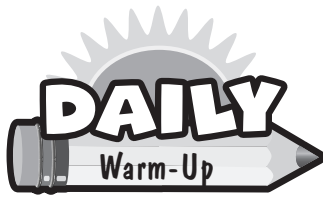
Do you know what a llama is? Do you know how to say that word? A llama is an interesting animal. In English, the word is pronounced with the 'l' sound at the beginning (*lama*). In Spanish, the word is pronounced with a 'y' sound at the beginning (*yama*). The llama comes from South America. Llamas have been used as pack animals for thousands of years. They are strong and smart animals. They can hike on the toughest trails. The llama is able to carry over 200 pounds and can hike about 12 hours in a day. They are similar to camels and cows, in that they chew their own cud.

A llama can grow to be as big as 400 pounds. The life span of a llama is 15 to 29 years. Llamas come in a variety of colors. They can be brown, gray, black, or white, as well as a combination of colors. Llamas are herd animals and prefer to be with other llamas. Llamas are also known for spitting. They typically spit to show dominance to other llamas. They can see very well, and sometimes they are used to protect baby cows, sheep, or goats.

Llamas do make some noises. They can be heard humming, which sounds a lot like how you sound humming. They may also cluck or make an alarm sound. They use the alarm sound when they feel threatened or afraid. Llamas are also known to roll on the ground to fluff their wool. They prefer to roll in the dirt.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is this passage mainly about?
  - how the llama eats
  - predators of the llama
  - the different types of llama
  - general facts about the llama
- In the second paragraph, what does the word *dominance* mean?
  - supremacy
  - broken
  - structured
  - overcome
- Llamas are social animals and prefer to . . .
  - hunt other animals.
  - protect other animals.
  - live in groups.
  - roll on their backs.
- Based on information in the passage, why are llamas good pack animals?
  - They stay in groups.
  - They are black and white.
  - They are smaller than camels.
  - They can carry a lot of weight.



**Llamas**

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. d