

Cautious Camels

Widely known for their **distinctive** humps and lashes, camels are very well adapted, **domesticated** creatures who have provided many benefits to us humans. Ever wondered why a camel has its humps? Why are their lashes SO LONG? Keep reading to find out...

Domesticated animals

Camels have long been **domesticated** animals and, as livestock, they provide food- milk and meat and textiles- fiber and felt from hair. Camels are working animals especially suited to their desert **habitat** and are a vital means of transport for passengers and **cargo**.

There are two species of camel. The dromedary, is a single humped camel that lives in the Middle East and African areas. The bactrian, is a two-humped camel that lives in areas of Central Asia.

There are estimated to be around 14 million camels across the world, living on average around 40 to 50 years.



Food

Camels are herbivores, meaning they eat plants. They can eat most types of **vegetation** including dry, thorny, or bitter plants that other animals may not want to eat. Their digestive system is tough and they have been known to eat dead carcasses, clothing, and even shoes when extremely hungry.

Adaptation

Camels have adapted in various ways over many years to survive in their climate;

- Camels do not actually hold liquid water in their humps. Their humps contain fatty tissue which can be converted to water or energy when required. They can survive up to six months without food or water by using up these fatty stores- helpful when living in **humid** climates like deserts!
- A large camel can drink around 113 litres in just 13 minutes! Making them able to rehydrate faster than any other mammal
- Long eyelashes, ear hair, and closable nostrils keep sand from affecting the camel, while their wide feet help them move without sinking into sand.
- Camels have large padded feet that stop their feet from sinking into the sand when moving

