

## ***Sloth Minit Books Answer Key***

### **Compare/Contrast**

Two Toed: They have 2 claws on front legs and 3 claws on back legs. Their legs are more equal in length. They eat leaves, fruit and flowers from many trees and vines. They have no tail.

Three Toed: 3 claws on front legs, 3 claws on back legs. Eat only leaves from a few tree species. They have a small tail. They have extra neck vertebrae.

### **Sloth numbers:**

Number of hours a sloth sleeps each day: 16

Life expectancy in wild: 12-20

Life expectancy in captivity: 30

Average weight: 9-19 lbs

Average length: 21-29 inches.

Number of times a week the Sloth goes to the ground: 1 (to defecate)

Number of babies born to a female each year: 1

Length of gestation period: 11 ½ months

Birth weight of baby: 12 ounces

Length of baby: 10 inches

Length of time a baby clings to it's mother: 5 weeks

Average body temperature: 93 degrees

### **What's for dinner?**

Three Toed Sloth: leaves, buds, and soft twigs of a few forest trees

Two Toed Sloth: Leaves, fruit and flowers

In captivity: yams, carrots, spinach

Sloths get their water: from juicy leaves and licking up dew

### **Predators of the Sloth:**

Carnivores such as jaguars, and ocelots.

Large raptors such as harpy eagles.

Humans

### **Vocabulary**

Arboreal: tree living

Raptor: A bird of prey

Vertebrae: bones or segments that make up the spine.

Nocturnal: active at night

Herbivore: an animal that eats vegetation

Canopy: cover formed by the leafy upper branches of the trees in the rainforest

### **Camouflage Defenses**

The Sloth's hair has a deep groove that is home to algae colonies. During rainy seasons, this gives the Sloth's coat a greenish color helping it to blend in with the forest.

The Sloth sleep curled up into a tight ball, resembling a termite nest. This camouflage helps to protect it from raptors and other predators.

### **Built for Hanging Around**

Hair: The stiff fur of a Sloth grows from the belly toward the back so that rainwater will run off.

Muscles: Sloths have ½ the muscle mass of other similar sized animals. The muscles in their shoulders and neck are quite strong.

Metabolism: Due to their low body temperature, the Sloth saves energy and requires less food. They sleep most of the day.

Claws: Their hands and feet are leathery and have long claws that help them to easily hang from tree branches.

### **Classification**

Two-Toed Sloth:

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Subphylum: Vertebrata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Xenarthra  
Suborder: Pilosa  
Genus: Choloepus  
Species: Hoffmanni  
Didactylus

Three-Toed Sloth:

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Subphylum: Vertebrata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Xenarthra  
Suborder: Pilosa  
Genus: Bradypus  
Species: Torquatus  
Tridactylus  
Variegatus

### **Where in world can you find a Sloth?**

Central to South America, Nicaragua to Peru and Central Brazil.

### **Did You Know?**

How Slow Can You Go? Sloths are the slowest mammal. They cannot stand on their hind legs and have to move by dragging themselves along when on the ground.

Splash! Splash! : Sloths are very good swimmer with an overarm stroke.

Can You Twist Like This? 3 Toed Sloths have extra neck vertebrae. They can twist their heads farther to the right and left than any other mammal.

Upside Down? The sloth eats, sleeps and even gives birth upside down!