

# Henry, the Hippopotamus

Henry was a hippopotamus. He was at home with his family in the hot and humid habitat of Eastern Africa. He liked to run on his little fat legs in the shallow waters of the Nile River. He squished his hooves in the mud.

Yes, Henry was happy to be a hippopotamus. “I am a ‘river horse!’”, he said proudly.

Each day, Henry watched the little human people on the other side of the river. They were happy like him. They played on the shore by the water while their mothers washed clothes.

“Hippos and humans never get along together,” warned Henry’s mother.

But, Henry had an idea! He wrote a note. “Hello, I am Henry. Who are you?”

He put the note in a little wooden sailboat and sent it across the river. One little human saw the note. She looked across the river at Henry. She jumped up and down and waved her hands! After that, they sent notes across the river. They became ‘pen pals’.

And that is how one little Hippo made friends with one little human on the other side of the river.

THE END

*You can be friends with people when you can't play with them. Maybe, they live far away. Maybe they are sick. You can write letters. You can draw pictures. Mother will help you mail the letter. Maybe you can text. Friends always find a way to 'like each other'!*

## **Did You Know?**

The hippopotamus has a bad temper and is the most dangerous animal in Africa

It is the third largest animal on land (elephant, rhinoceros)

A group of hippos is called a 'bloat'

The two species are: the common Nile and the Pygmy Hippo

They can weigh up to 7,000 pounds

They have huge jaws that can stretch open to 180 degrees

Hippos have many teeth, including two sharp, two-foot long tusks on the bottom

They keep growing their whole life

A Hippo can bite a crocodile in half!

George Washington's false teeth were made from hippo teeth ivory

Their oil glands 'sweat' a pink fluid for cooling

Babies are born under the water

There are 125,000-250,000 remaining in the wild.

## True False Quiz

*The Answers are in the Story and Did You Know*

**Circle the right answer.**

1. T      F      Henry was not happy to be a Hippopotamus.
2. T      F      Henry was 'curious' about the people that live on the other side of the river.
3. T      F      Henry put a note in a sailboat and sent it across the river.
4. T      F      Henry made friends with a person across the river.
5. T      F      The Hippopotamus is friendly and would be a good pet.
6. T      F      A 'group' of Hippopotamus is called a 'bloat'.
7. T      F      A Hippo has no change in a fight with a crocodile.
8. T      F      Babies are born under water.
9. T      F      There are only about 10,000 hippos left in the world.
10. T      F      George Washington (1st President of USA) had false teeth made of Hippo bone.

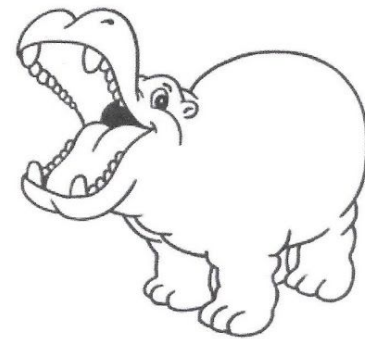
# Hippopotamus

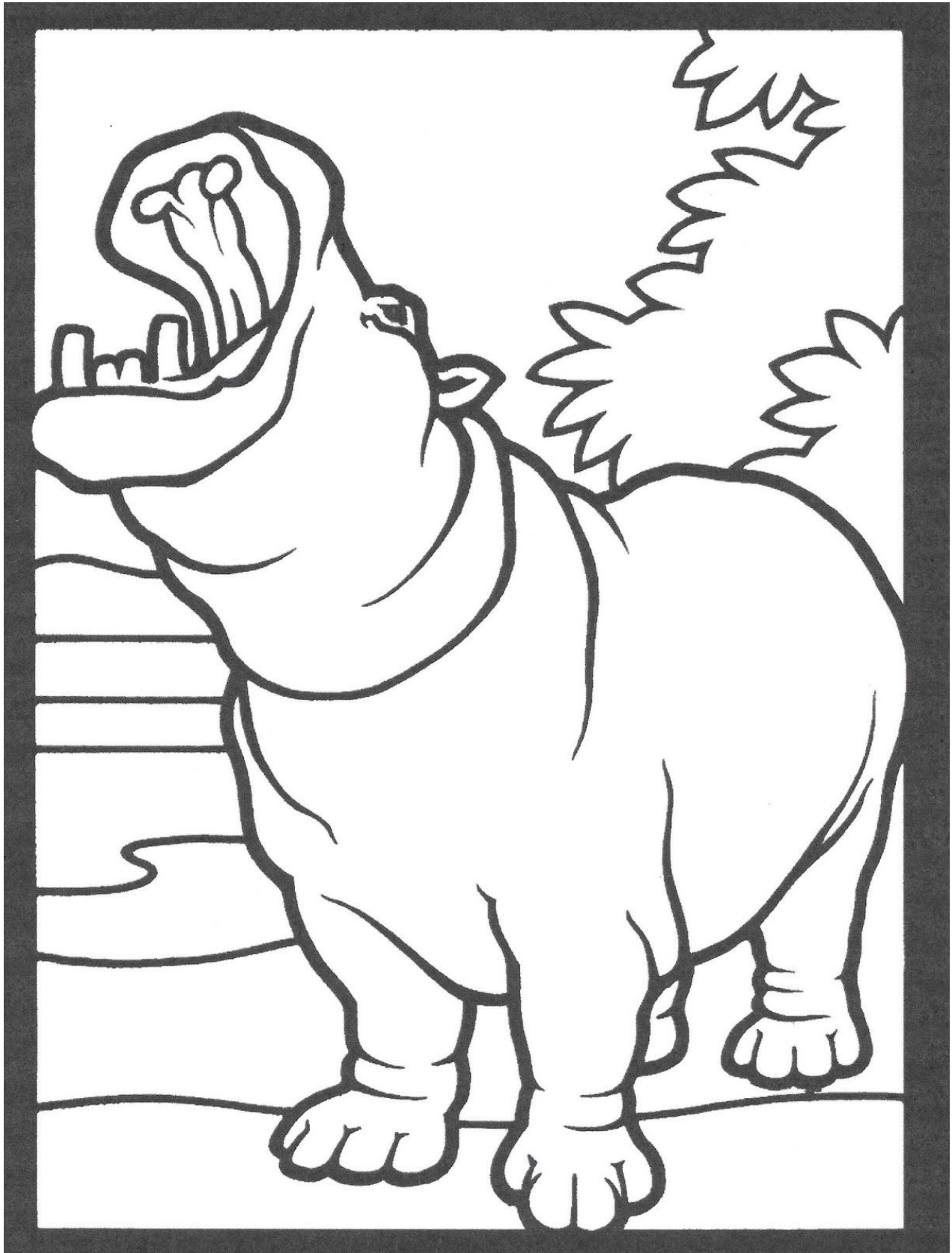
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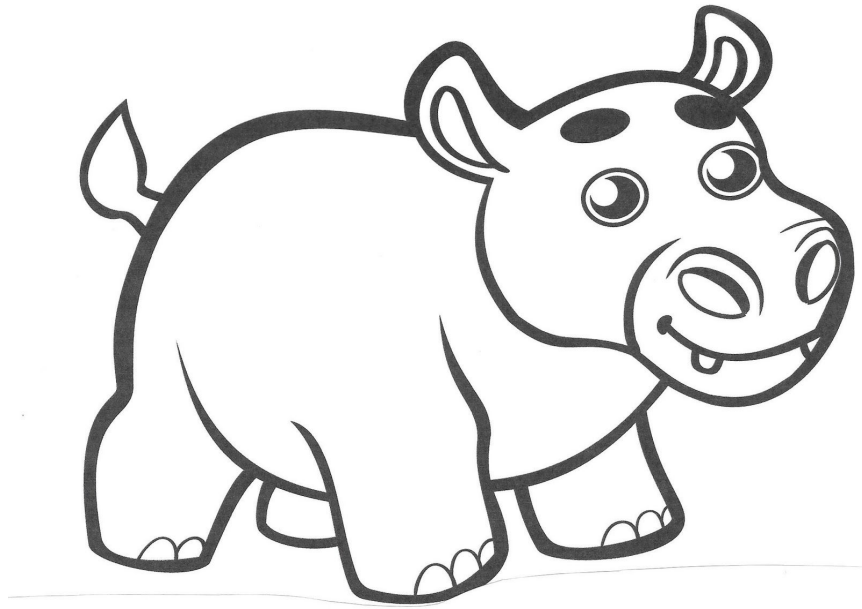
Make as many words as you can out of the word, Hippopotamus. Use each letter only one time except for the 'p' - can use 3 times; and the 'o' can use 2 times.

1. Hip
2. pot
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.





H is for \_\_\_\_\_



**Draw a Hippo Below**