

# Kids Korner

## Did You Know These Facts About Funny, Playful Goats?

### Learning About Goats Study Questions

Answer the following questions. Be sure to use complete sentences.

- How long have people been keeping tame goats?
- What is a baby goat called? What do we call a female goat? A male goat?
- What do goats eat?
- How can goats be used to control unwanted vegetation?
- Name two ways goats help the environment.
- What kind of habitat are goats adapted to living in?
- How are goats protected from predators?
- How many people in the world eat goat meat on a regular basis?
- Why is goat meat healthy for you?
- What else can goat milk be used for besides drinking?
- What are the two types of fibers that we get from goats that can be used to make clothing?
- Why do you think early settlers to North America chose to bring goats instead of cows? Give two possible reasons.

**SAN ANGELO, Texas** — Goats may have been one of the earliest hoofed animals domesticated. For thousands of years goats lived on steep hills and mountainsides. Because goats are very agile and sure-footed, they can survive on lands that are hot and dry, or cold and barren with few plants, where other livestock cannot survive.

Domesticated goats are known to have existed in North Africa and Asia Minor thousands of years before Christ.

Goats provide milk and meat and were brought to America by the early settlers.

Goats are cud-chewing, even-toed, hoofed animals with four compartment stomachs. Goats have hollow horns that are directed upward, backward, and outward. Male goats have beards.

Goats are playful and like to jump and climb with their herdmates. A male goat is called a buck or a "billy" goat. Female goats are does or "nanny" goats. Baby goats are referred as kids.

Most breeds of goats give birth to a single kid, but twins or even triplets are common in some breeds. A kid can stand on its own within minutes of birth and can move with the herd within a few days.

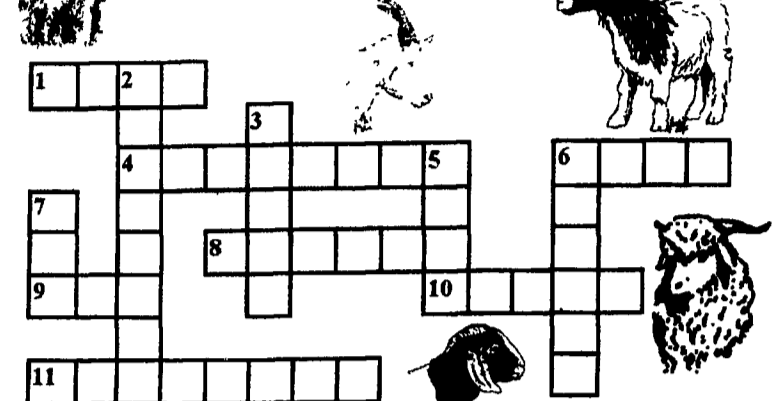
Predators such as mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, golden eagles, and even domestic dogs prey on goats, particularly young kids. Often specially trained guard dogs and even guard donkeys are used to protect goats from predators.

Some people say that goats eat tin cans. That isn't true, but they will eat the labels off tin cans. It is this ability to utilize any kind of plant material for food that makes goats so useful in controlling unwanted vegetation.

Goat milk is very nutritious, easy to digest, and used to make many different kinds of cheese. Goats that are raised primarily to give milk are Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Toggenburg, and Saanen breeds.

Goats raise for meat production are Spanish and Boer breeds. Goat meat is very low in fat and cholesterol. For more than 80 percent of the people in the world, goat meat is the most often consumed meat.

### Learning About Goats Crossword Puzzle



Use the words from the reading to help you find the answers to the puzzle.

**Across:**

- Male goat
- The process of removing the hair from goats
- Food product from goats
- Type of goat that gives us very fine fiber used most often in clothing
- A female goat
- State where most mohair comes from
- Animal that hunts and kills other animals for food

**Down:**

- Short, soft, down-like fiber
- Another name for a female goat
- Animal that gives us meat, milk, and fiber
- Hair from an Angora goat
- A baby goat



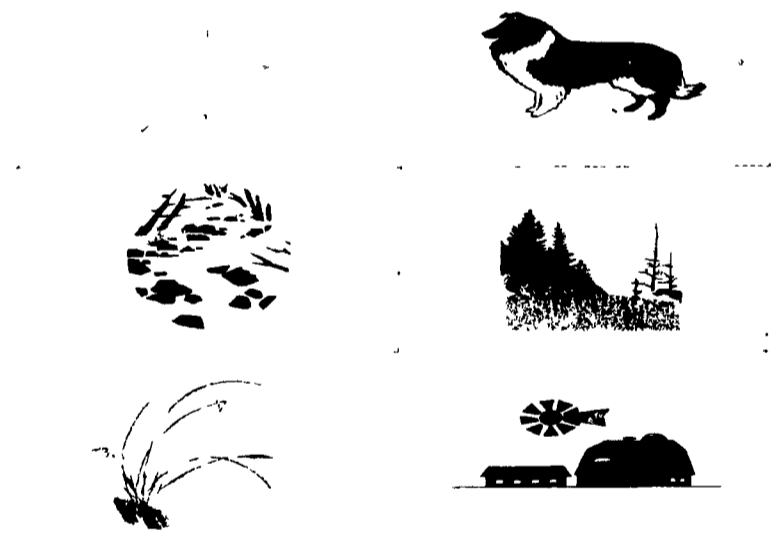
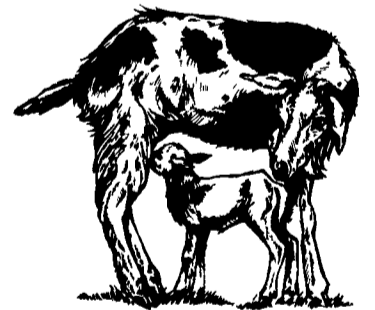
Some goats are raised not for their meat or milk, but for their hair. Although all goats have hair, the hair from Angora and Cashmere goats is particularly soft, warm, luxurious, and desired by many people.

Fiber goats have their hair clipped or sheared twice a year.

Hides from goats are used as rugs, the skin is used for fine leather. Gelatin, fertilizers, surgical supplies, medicines, soaps, ceramics, pet foods, horn, and bone handles, luggage, and footwear are just a few of the other products we get from the natural, renewable, and earth-friendly goat.

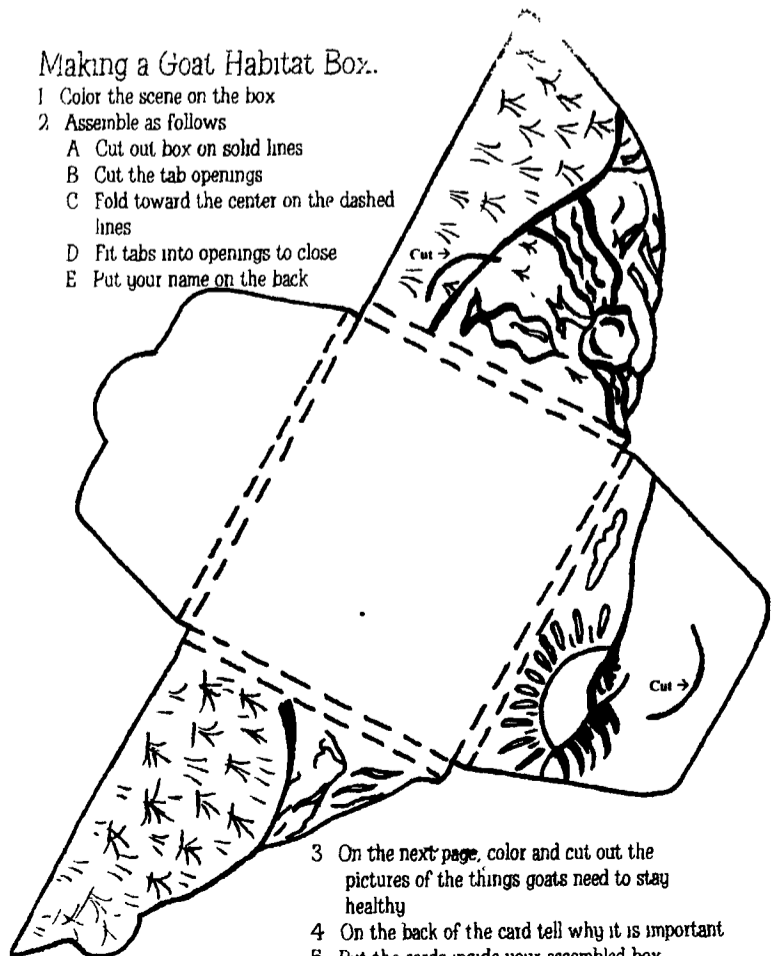
The information on this page is from Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, San Angelo, Texas.

If you would like to raise goats, contact your county Penn State Extension office. Most counties have 4-H goat clubs, which help to make raising goats fun and easy.



### Making a Goat Habitat Box.

- Color the scene on the box.
- Assemble as follows:
  - Cut out box on solid lines
  - Cut the tab openings
  - Fold toward the center on the dashed lines
  - Fit tabs into openings to close
  - Put your name on the back



- On the next page, color and cut out the pictures of the things goats need to stay healthy.
- On the back of the card tell why it is important.
- Put the cards inside your assembled box.

### Learning About Goats Glossary

- Angora** The type of goat that produces mohair
- Billy goat** Another name used to refer to a male goat
- Buck** A male goat
- Cashmere** The short, soft, down-like fiber from goats used to make expensive and luxurious types of clothing
- Doe** A female goat
- Fleece** The coat of hair that is removed from a goat when it is sheared
- Herbicide** A chemical used to kill or control unwanted vegetation
- Herd** A group of goats. Also means to gather animals together into a group
- Kid** A baby goat
- Mohair** The fine fiber used most often in clothing that comes from Angora goats. Texas produces 90% of the mohair in the U.S.
- Nanny goat** Another name for a female goat
- Predators** Animals such as coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, and bobcats that hunt other animals for food
- Range** The countryside over which goats and other types of grazing animals roam
- Shearing** The process of clipping the coat of hair from goats or sheep



### Learning About Goats Answer Key

**TEAS Correlation**  
 412 6 4 2K, 4 31(A)(C)(D)(E), 4 31(A)(B), 4 31(A)(B), 4 10(A)(B) #112 7 5 20,  
 5 31(A)(B) (D)(E), 5 31(A)(B), 5 6(C), 5 9(A)(B)(C), 5 11(A)(B), #112 22 6 2(C), 6 31(B)(C)(D)(E),  
 6 8(C), 6 12(C),  
 #113 6 4 4(B), 4 9(A)(B)(C), 4 13(A), 4 14(B), 4 22(A)(D), 4 23(A), 4 24(A)(B)(D) #113 7 3 4(I),  
 5 9(A)(B)(C), 5 14(A), 5 24(D)(E), 5 25(A)(D), 5 26(A)(B)(E), 5 27(A)(B), #113 22 6 6(B)(C),  
 6 7(A)(B)(C), 6 17(A), 6 21(R)(D), 6 22(A)(B)(C), 6 23(A)(B)(C)

- Study Questions**
- People have been keeping tame goats for as far back as 6,000 to 7,000 B.C.
  - A baby goat is called a kid. A female goat is called a doe, or a nanny goat, and a male goat is called a buck, or a Billy goat.
  - Goats will eat most any kind of vegetation. They eat grass, leaves, twigs, berries, lichens, and bitter desert plants.
  - Goats will eat plants that other animals will not, or can not eat.
  - Goats help the environment by cleaning out unwanted or exotic vegetation by reducing the need for herbicides. This also saves money for farmers and ranchers.
  - Goats are adapted to rough, dry, mountainous types of habitats where other livestock or crops cannot be grown.
  - Dogs help to protect goats from predators.
  - Fifty percent of the world's population eats goat meat on a regular basis.
  - Goat meat is healthy for you because it is low in fat and cholesterol.
  - Goat milk is used extensively in making different types of cheese.
  - Mohair and cashmere are the two types of fiber that we get from goats to use in making clothing.
  - Early settlers to North America took goats with them because goats took up less space aboard the ships. Because of their diets, goats were also easier to feed and care for in the New World while still providing them with meat and milk.

- Crossword Puzzle**
- Across:**
- buck
  - shearing
  - meat or milk
  - angora
  - doe
  - Texas
  - predator
- Down:**
- Cashmere
  - Nanny
  - Goat
  - Mohair
  - Kid
- Goat Habitat Box**  
 All items are necessary. Plants provide food. Dog provides protection from predators. Stream provides water. Hillside provides range and habitat. Barn provides shelter in severe weather.

