Hippos

Beverley Randell



PM

Hippos

Level 18

Running Words 494 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

1 What colour is a hippo's skin?

2 How do hippos keep themselves cool?

3 Where can baby hippos rest to be safe from crocodiles?

4 What are male hippos called?

Inferential

5 Why do hippos stay close to rivers and pools?

6 Why is it better for hippos to feed at night?

7 How could smaller hippos get hurt when bulls are fighting?

8 Why does a mother hippo have her baby away from the rest of the herd?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 18	Information Report	*Brown Bears*
Level 18	Information Report	*Elephants*
Level 18	Information Report	*Kangaroos*
Level 18	Information Report	*Lions and Tigers*
Level 18	Information Report	*Monkeys and Apes*

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Hippos

Hippos are some of the biggest animals on Earth. They live in Africa.

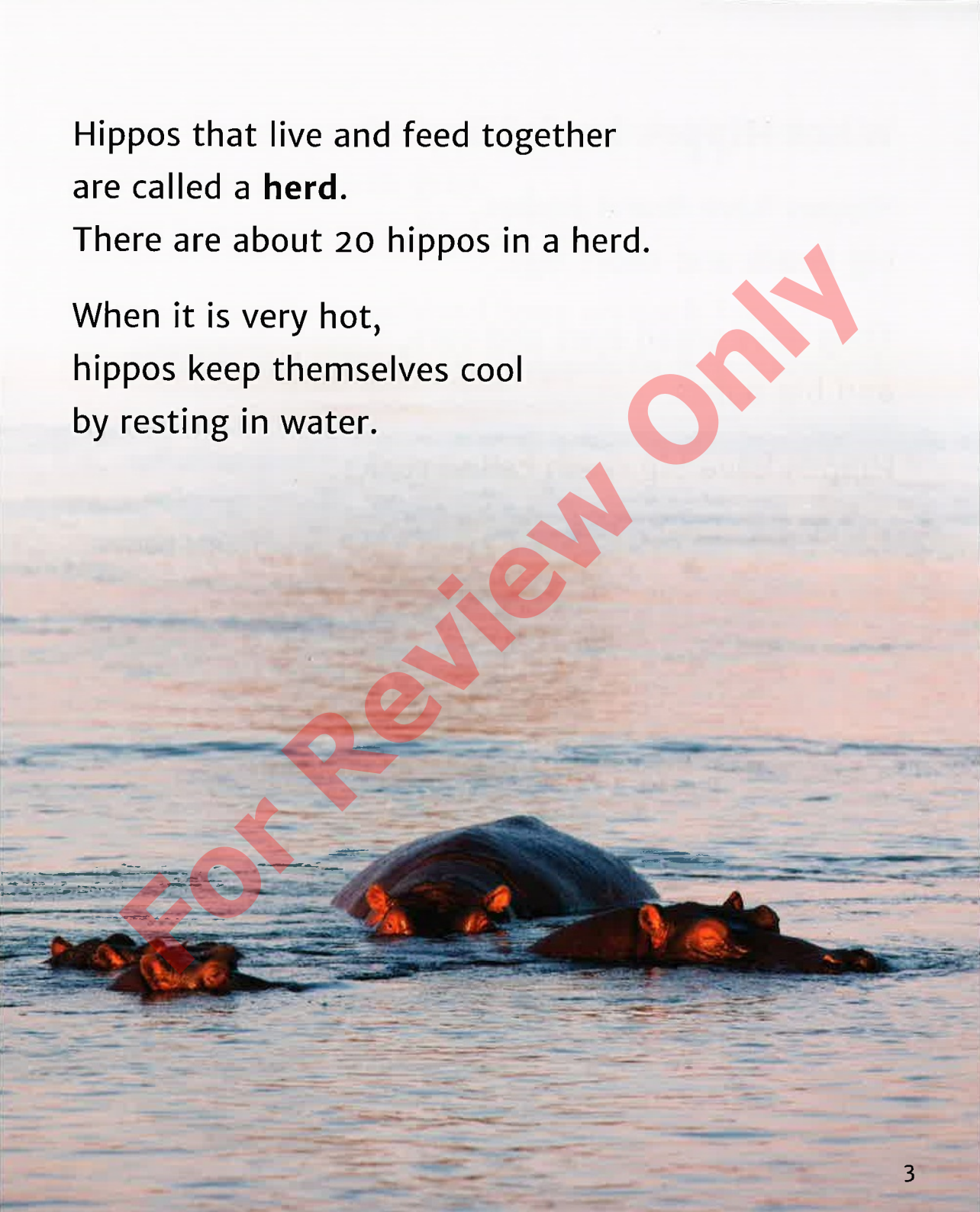
Hippos can be found near rivers and pools.



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Hippos that live and feed together
are called a **herd**.
There are about 20 hippos in a herd.

When it is very hot,
hippos keep themselves cool
by resting in water.



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What Hippos Look Like

Hippos have round bodies,
big heads and short legs.

They have small eyes and ears,
and big noses.

Hippos have big teeth called **tusks**.



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Hippos have very thick skin all over their bodies.
The skin is brownish grey.
There is no hair on a hippo's skin.

Hippos have four **webbed toes** on each foot.
Their toes make it easy for hippos to move around in muddy rivers.

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Mother Hippos and Their Babies

A mother hippo finds somewhere safe
to have her baby.
She looks for a place that is away
from other animals and the rest of the herd.

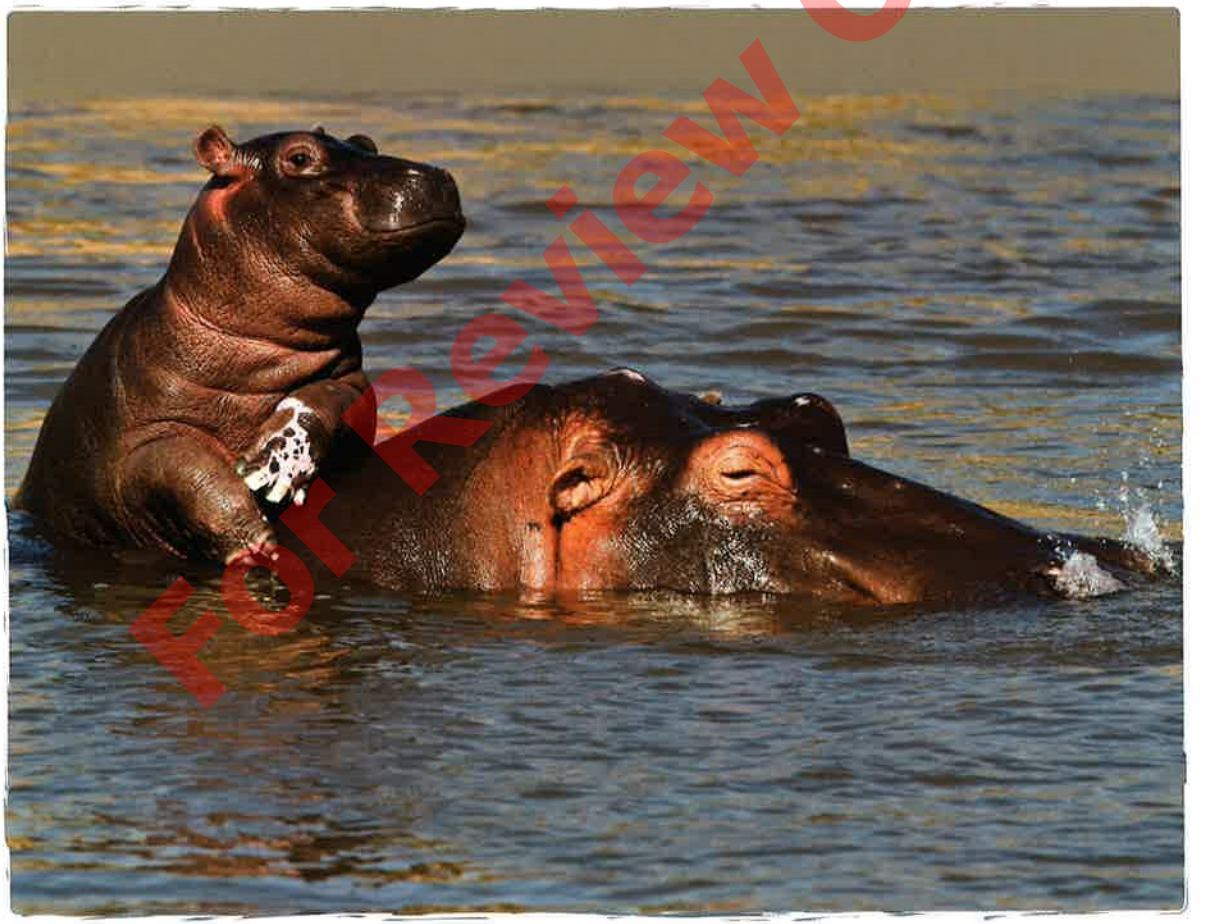
A baby hippo is called a calf.
Sometimes, a mother hippo has her calf in a river.
As soon as the calf is born,
it must come up for air.



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In rivers, a mother hippo
needs to keep her calf safe.

Sometimes, a calf will rest on its mother's back.
Crocodiles cannot get to it there.



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