What do you know about pigs?

- What sounds do pigs make?
- What do pigs eat?
- Why do farmers raise pigs?
- What does a pigs look like?
- Have you ever seen a real pig? If so, where?

Old MacDonald is going to tell you all about pigs. Listen to find out more about the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson: pigs.



You may remember from the song that I also have pigs on my farm. Some farmers raise many pigs. Just like cows and chickens, pigs depend on farmers for food and shelter.



At feeding time, the farmer dumps a bucket of feed into the pig's feeding trough. The trough may be a long, narrow, wooden bowl or steel pan.



Sometimes, pigs are called hogs. Whatever you call them, it's a known fact that pigs like to eat a lot.
Pigs eat grass, grain, cheese,
vegetable scraps, pretty
much whatever you feed
them--and then some!



In fact, I know some farmers who use their pigs to harvest their corn, bean, and turnip crops. The pigs even eat the weeds and till the soil with their pointy snouts while they're rooting around!



Now that's what I call smart farming. Some pigs grow to be over 200 pounds!



When they are not busy eating, pigs like to lie around in a cool spot. If the farmer lets his pigs outside in a pasture, they often use their pointed noses to make holes in the ground where rainwater collects.



These puddles make a nice, cool place to lie on a hot day. The pigs often wallow in the puddles and stir up plenty of mud. Wallow means to roll around. Because pigs don't sweat like people do, the mud helps keep them cool in the hot summer, and it also helps keep the bugs away.



Cows moo. People say that pigs go oink but if you ask me, pigs have their own language. All those grunts, snorts, and squeals I hear when I go near the pigpen sound like the pigs are having a conversation with each other. Pigsty is another word for pigpen.



But you might be surprised to hear that pigs are not dirty or messy. So if someone tells you that your room looks like a pigsty when it is time for you to do a little cleaning, you should let them know that pigs actually do not like their homes to be dirty.



Because they snort and eat a lot and spend so much time wallowing in the mud, pigs have a reputation for being dirty, lazy and greedy. In fact, however, they are intelligent, friendly creatures (and I think they're kind of cute!).



Some people say that pigs are even smarter than dogs, but you'd better not tell that to my dog, Bingo! Some people even say that pigs make good pets because they are affectionate and they like to



You might be surprised to learn that pigs are actually quick animals. When they need to, pigs can really move. And, having owned many pigs in my life, I can tell you that it is really difficult to catch a pig if it ever gets out of the pen and decided to try and run away.



Just like cows and chickens, male and female pigs have different names. This is a male pig. Male pigs are called boars. That is not an earring in his ear. Each pig has a tag with a number so the farmer can identify it. It's like his nametag.



Female pigs are called sows. The word sow rhymes with cow. This sow has given birth to a litter of piglets. A litter is a group of babies born to the mother at the same time. Typically, sows will give birth to litters of between six and twelve piglets each year.



Pigs are mammals; like cows, pigs produce milk for their young. Sows do not have udders like cows, but they do have lots of teats-hopefully enough for every piglet.
If the mother pig is not able to
produce enough milk, the farmer may move one of the piglets to another sow that have some extra



Farmers raise pigs for their meat.
Raise means to take care of. Meat that comes from a pig is called pork, and pork is used to make products such as bacon and sausage. Some people like to eat bacon or sausage for breakfast. Other types of pork include ham, pork chops, and pork loin.



These are popular foods that you can roast, grill or fry. Do you have a favorite?



Pigs are valuable animals.
Valuable means precious or worth a lot of money. In some parts of the world, it is common for every family to own a pig. The meat from one large pig can feed a whole family for a month or more.



Plus, if a sow has a litter of piglets, the piglets can be sold or traded in the market once they are grown up. The farmer or family can then use the money to buy food or other important things.



Come to think of it, you might want to consider getting a pig of your own. Do you think you have room for one at your house?

Comprehension Questions:

What is the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What do you see in this picture? What sound do they make?



Comprehension Questions:

How do pigs get the food they need?



Comprehension Questions:

How do piglets get the food they need?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What are female pigs called?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What is a litter of piglets?



Comprehension Questions:

Why do farmers raise pigs?



Comprehension Questions:

What pork products do people eat?



Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative

How are pigs like cows? How are they different?



## Think. Pair. Share.



T<sub>Evaluative</sub>:





What is the most interesting fact that you learned about pigs?



Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

In the read aloud you heard, "Pigs are **valuable** animals."

Say the word **valuable** with me. Whisper valuable to the ceiling. Whisper valuable to the floor. Clap out the word.

If something is valuable, it is precious or worth a lot of money.

The queen's jewelry is very valuable.

What kinds of things are **valuable** to you or your family? Try to use the word valuable when you tell about it.

"Our new car is very valuable because \_\_\_\_\_

"Our dog Sadie is very valuable because \_\_\_\_\_."

What's the word we've been talking about?