



Two-toed Sloth Activity Sheet

Grades K-2:

Flash is a **Linne's Two-toed Sloth** at the Buffalo Zoo. He has 2 claws on each of his front feet and 3 claws on each of his back feet. Can you **label the body parts** of the two-toed sloth below? Color the picture when you are done!



Practice writing the words below:

TWO TOED SLOTH

Pretend you are a sloth! How slowly can you move? Can you grip objects using just two fingers? What does the world look like when you're upside down? Can you munch on lettuce leaves and vegetables slowly like a sloth? Have a sloth "race" with a family member to see who can complete a task the slowest.

Grades 3-5:

A sloth spends their time hanging from tree branches all day long. Can you hang like a sloth? Have a parent help you hold on to a branch and see how long you can hang there! Sloths need to be very flexible as they move from branch to branch through the trees. Are you as flexible as a sloth? Try out some of these animal inspired yoga moves!



All sloths make their homes in the **New World Rainforest**. Rainforests are the most biodiverse (bio=life, diverse=different so different kinds of life) habitat on land! They contain thousands of different kinds of plants, fungi, and animals, each with their own unique "job" to keep the rainforest in balance. Do some research on New World Rainforests and learn what job sloths have in that habitat. What other animals call New World Rainforests home? What adaptations do these animals have to do their jobs, find food, and stay safe from predators? Which layer of the rainforest do they live in? Draw a picture of a New World Rainforest, showing different types of plants and animals living in all four layers.

There are six species of sloth and they are all found in Central and South America. Using the map below, color in range maps for each species and create a legend showing which color represents which species. What else did you learn about each kind of sloth?

Latin America



Grades 6-12:

A sloth's family tree is very bizarre. Their closest living relatives are anteaters and armadillos, but they also have extinct giant, ground-dwelling ancestors! These species all belong to the **Order XENARTHRA**. What characteristics do Xenarthrans share? How do scientists classify them into different Families? Share some photos and information about the most unusual Xenarthran you find while conducting your research (did you see *Chlamyphorus truncates*?!).

Destruction of rainforest habitats is one of the leading threats to sloths and other animals today. How are rainforests helpful to people and the planet? What are some ways that you can help slow deforestation? Create a poster about why rainforests are important and why people should do their part to protect them. Share your poster with your family, on social media, or displayed in a window for neighbors to see!

Animated sloths in movies and on TV have created a dangerous frenzy over their real-life counterparts. Sid, Belt, and Flash captured the hearts of millions who watched their films but didn't really tell the story of what dangers they face in the wild. In fact, many people started capturing live sloths in the wild to keep or sell as pets (which is a very bad thing to do for so many reasons). What role should mass media play in teaching people about conservation issues? Do you think that movies have a responsibility beyond being entertaining?

Read the article "The strange symbiosis between sloths and moths," found here:

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/the-strange-symbiosis-between-sloths-and-moths-1506856445>

Then answer the questions below:

1. Find at least 5 words from the article that were unfamiliar to you. Look up their definitions and think about their context within the article.
2. Why is it dangerous for a sloth to come to the ground to poop?
3. A *generalist* is an animal that thrives in many areas and can eat many different things. A *specialist* is an animal that lives in a specific place and may eat a specific type of food item. Which kind of sloth would be considered a generalist and which would be a specialist? Use evidence from the article to back up your answer.
4. Think about the relationship between the sloths, moths, algae, fungi, and trees. In your own words explain how they interact or depend on one another. Consider the questions:
 - a. Who are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores?
 - b. Who is a producer, consumer, or decomposer?
 - c. Who is benefitting from whom and how?
5. Do you think a sloth can be considered an individual and/or an ecosystem? Why?
6. Why do you think a sloth takes such risks to come down to the ground to poop? Is it worth it?
7. What other questions do you have about this strange behavior?