**Asset Information Page**

**Llamas**

**Sticky Note 1:**

**Also known as the "new world camel", llamas were domesticated in the early 1500s and are valuable work animals!**

**Appearance:** The llama is a South American relative of the camel, though the llama does not have a hump.

They are slender-bodied animals and have long legs and long necks, short tails, small heads, and large pointed ears.

**Habitat:** Llama herds are found primarily in [Bolivia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Bolivia), [Peru](https://www.britannica.com/place/Peru), [Colombia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Colombia), [Ecuador](https://www.britannica.com/place/Ecuador), [Chile](https://www.britannica.com/place/Chile), and [Argentina](https://www.britannica.com/place/Argentina), and they have been exported to other countries.

Fossil footprints found in California indicate that llamas, relatives of camels, originated in North America. It is believed that the animals that moved north and crossed the Bering land bridge evolved into camels, while the ones that migrated to the south became the "lama" family!!

**Movement:** Native peoples have used llamas as pack animals for centuries. Typically, they are saddled with loads of 50 to 75 pounds. Under such weight they can cover up to 20 miles in a single day.

Pack trains of llamas, which can include several hundred animals, move large amounts of goods over even the very rough terrain of the Andes.

**Diet:**  Llamas graze on grass and, like cows, regurgitate their food and chew it as cud. They chomp on such wads for some time before swallowing them for complete digestion.

Llamas can survive by eating many different kinds of plants, and they need little water.

-------------------------------------------------------End of Sticky Note 1---------------------------------------------------------

**Sticky Note 2:**

**Llamas usually spit to settle an argument over food or to decide which is the dominant llama. A female will also spit at a male to tell him to get lost.**

**Reproduction:**  Llamas breed in the late summer and fall, from November to May. The gestation period lasts about 11 months, and the female gives birth to one young.

**Social Structures:** The llama is primarily a pack animal, but it is also used as a source of food, wool, hides, tallow for candles, and dried dung for fuel.

The llama is a gentle animal, but, when overloaded or maltreated, it will lie down, hiss, spit and kick, and refuse to move!

**Communication:**  Llamas make a variety of sounds. The most common sound is a humming noise. A female will hum to her cria (offspring).

Males orgle, which sounds like a gurgle, during breeding. If a couple of males decide to have a fight, they will start screaming at each other.

**Survival Skills:** In the wild, a male will find a high vantage point to watch over his herd of females and if he spots danger, will start alarm calling. Moments later every male in the vicinity will be alarm calling.

In the wilds of South America, pumas (or mountain lions) are llamas' only natural predator. If a llama perceives danger, it sends an alarm call, which warns the rest of the herd.

-------------------------------------------------------End of Sticky Note 2---------------------------------------------------------