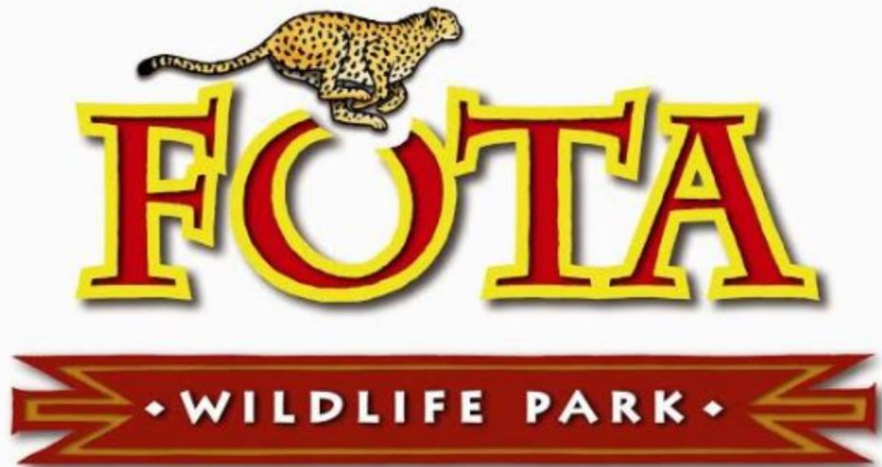


# Brazilian Tapirs at Fota Wildlife Park



# Welcome to Fota Wildlife Park!



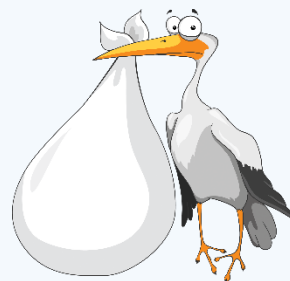
- Fota Wildlife Park was established in 1983.
- Our aim is to help conserve animals across the globe through Conservation, Education and research!
- The Wildlife Park is a charity and a not for profit organisation.
- By visiting Fota Wildlife Park, you are playing a part in helping to conserve the world's endangered wildlife!



# Brazilian Tapir Information



Tapirs are herbivores. They use their long, prehensile (can grip) snout to collect leaves, shoots, fruit and buds off plants.



Females give birth to a single calf after a gestation period of 13 months. The calf has a coat of spots and stripes for the first 6 months of its life. This helps camouflage it in the rainforest.



They can reach 2 metres in length and can weigh up to 225kg.



The name 'tapir' is from an indigenous language in Brazil, it means 'thick'. This is in reference to the thick skin on the back of their neck.



They are excellent swimmers and will run to water when scared. They can use their snout as a snorkel when they are submerged in the water.



Tapirs are important seed dispersers for various plants in the rainforest.



# How many species of Tapir exist?

There are four types of tapirs – the Brazilian tapir, Mountain tapir, Baird's tapir and the Malayan tapir.

The Malayan tapir is the only species found in Asia, the other three live in Central and South America. The Malayan tapir is black and white in colour!



Baby Tapir at Fota Wildlife Park!



# Tapir Global Range



Baird's  
Tapir

Mountain  
Tapir

Brazilian  
Tapir

Malayan  
Tapir

# How are Tapirs adapted for survival?

They have thick skin on the back of their neck which makes it hard for a predator to grasp them.



Tapirs have a great sense of hearing and smell.



They have a unique prehensile nose that they use to collect leaves and branches



They have splayed toes which allows them to grip wet, soft ground.





# Find the following words relating to Tapirs

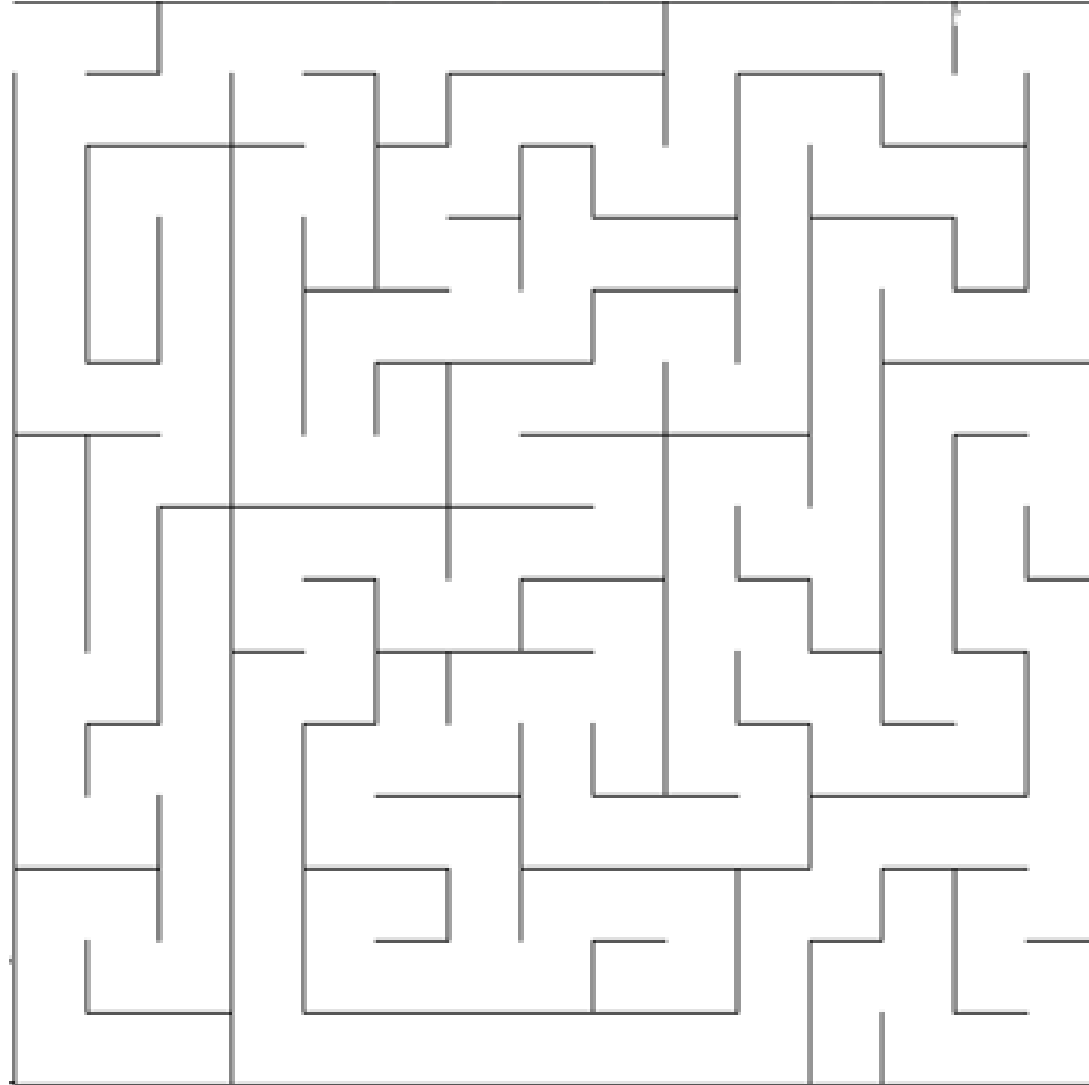
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H	N	O	G	O	O	O	B	C	F	F	L	N	G
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R	Z	M	E	A	W	R	R	M	R	R	N	B	A
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V	A	T	A	R	I	E	R	F	N	S	T	W	N
O	G	A	R	V	U	N	A	L	F	H	C	N	E
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T	E	U	V	M	A	N	S	R	T	S	A	T	R
T	H	I	C	K	E	S	N	O	U	T	A	A	I

CAMOUFLAGE  
GRASS  
VULNERABLE  
FRUIT  
JAGUAR  
THICK  
RAINFOREST  
BRAZIL  
HERBIVORE  
SNOUT  
AMAZON  
SWIM  
BROWN  
NOCTURNAL





Can you help the tapir find its food?



Did you know?

Tapirs have been known to consume up to 40kg of vegetation daily!





# Terrific Tapirs

*Did you know?*

*A group of tapirs is called a candle!*



## Across

3. Tapirs are classified as \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a young tapir called?
7. What is the habitat of a tapir?
9. Animals that eat plants only.

## Down

1. A large feline predator of Brazilian tapirs
2. When an animals colouration helps it to blend into the background.
4. What is the current IUCN status for the Brazilian tapir?
5. Animals that are active at night time are known as?
8. Tapirs can be \_\_\_\_\_ metres in length.

# Tapirs are often called 'Living fossils'.

Members of the tapir family have been around since the Eocene era, which was about 33- 56 millions years ago!

These prehistoric tapirs were less evolved than their modern relatives. They survived multiple mass extinction events.



Modern day Tapirs



# World Tapir Day is April 27<sup>th</sup>!

This is an important day in the tapir's calendar. It is designed to raise awareness and much needed funds to protect tapirs in the wild!

Make a poster celebrating tapirs for World Tapir Day 2020!



## 2020

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
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26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
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17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
31			30 31
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31



## How do tapirs communicate?

They can make a high pitched whistle to communicate with each other. They can also snort loudly to stave off other tapirs. They also leave urine trails to mark territories.





# What have you learnt? Quiz Time



What is the name given to the ability of their snout to grip branches?

- Nocturnal
- Prehensile
- prehistoric

Which of these is a threat affecting tapirs in the wild?

- Attack by lions
- Habitat destruction
- Too much rainfall

How long is a female tapir pregnant for?

- 13 months
- 23 months
- 3 months

What is a group of tapirs called?

- A herd
- A pack
- A candle

Which continent do Tapirs not live on?

- Africa
- Asia
- South America

How heavy can a Brazilian Tapir be?

- 200kg
- 225kg
- 300kg

Tapirs are important for seed dispersal.

- True
- False

# What have you learnt? Quiz Time



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- True





# Threats and conservation.

The Brazilian Tapir is listed as 'Vulnerable' because its population continues to decrease. The main threats facing them are habitat destruction and hunting for their meat and hide. Due to their slow reproductive rates, they are often the first species to suffer population losses when humans encroach on their habitat.

Efforts are being made in Central and South America to conserve the tapir's natural habitat and to promote them as flagship species in order to inspire local people to protect them.



# Learning at Fota Wildlife Park.....



If you would like to learn more about wildlife.....why not book an educational tour with our education department. Each year our skilled team of educators teach in excess of 19,000 students in the areas of conservation & ecology. We welcome students of all ages all year round!

We hope to see you soon!

Contact: [education@fotawildlife.ie](mailto:education@fotawildlife.ie)

Or (021) 4812678 ext 206 For more details!

