

SLOTH

The *sloth* is a slow-moving mammal that lives in trees. Sloths spend most of their lives hanging upside-down from tree branches.

Diet

- * Leaves
- * Tender young shoots
- * Fruit

They eat, sleep, mate, and give birth upside-down in the trees. They hold onto tree branches with strong, curved claws that are on each of their four feet.

These plant-eaters are more active at night. Sloths have a thick brown (and slightly-greenish) fur coat and are about the size of a cat (roughly 2 feet = 61 cm long).

Their coloration and their slow actions make them almost disappear in the forest canopy. Some sloths have colonies of green algae encrusting their fur, both adding to the camouflage effect and providing some nutrients to the sloths, who lick the algae.

These mostly-quiet mammals live in the tropical rainforests of South and Central America. Sloths may live 10-20 years in the wild. Sloths are hunted by jaguars, eagles, and man.



A sloth hanging on a tree

All about Jaguars



Jaguar - tropical rainforest predator

Jaguars are wild cats that live in rain forests, swamps, deserts, and shrubby areas from South and Central America. These solitary felines often have dens in caves. Jaguars are territorial. They are very good swimmers. Jaguars are an endangered species due to loss of habitat and over-hunting by man.

Anatomy: These graceful cats grow to be about 4-6 feet (1.2-1.8 m) long; the tail is 2-3 feet (0.6-0.9 m) long. Jaguars are bigger than leopards, and their dark markings are arranged in a rosette of 4 or 5 spots placed around a central lighter-coloured spot.

Diet: These large cats are carnivores (meat-eaters).

They hunt:

- * Mammals
- * Reptiles
- * Birds

Eggs, including turtles, and alligators.

They often bury their prey after killing it, in order to eat it later. They hunt mostly at night; they are nocturnal.

