

Directions

Read the passage. Then answer Numbers 19 through 27.

Horns and Antlers

- 1 From Africa to Alaska, the world is filled with interesting and unusual animals that have horns and antlers. These hard, pointed growths are attached to an animal's skull and develop throughout its life. In males, horns and antlers are mainly used to fight other males and to get the attention of females. In both males and females, horns may have several uses, including protection against enemies. Despite their similarities, horns and antlers are quite different. Do you know the differences between the two?

What are horns?

- 2 Horns are permanent parts of an animal's head. They continue to grow during the animal's life. They do not fall off. Horns are covered with a strong material called keratin. Your fingernails are also made of keratin. Horns have a hollow center at the base, where they are attached to an animal's skull. Horns are pointed and usually have a slight curve. Some are twisted, and others have huge, curving spirals. Horns usually come in pairs and are not branched, or split. The shape and size of horns are different and depend on the type of animal.



Buffalo

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Which animals have horns?

- 3 Some cows, antelope, buffalo, sheep, and goats have horns. Males usually have larger horns than females. In some animal families, only males have horns. Animals use their large horns in fights to show their body strength. Some animals may use their horns to dig holes and to scratch their skin.

Unusual Horns

- 4 The rhinoceros is another animal that has horns, but its horns are different from those of other horned animals. Instead of having horns on its head, the rhinoceros has slightly curved horns on its nose. Another difference is that the horns of the rhinoceros are solid all the way through. Giraffes also have unusual horns. Their horns are small and bony, and they are covered with skin and hair.



Rhinoceros



Giraffe

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What are antlers?

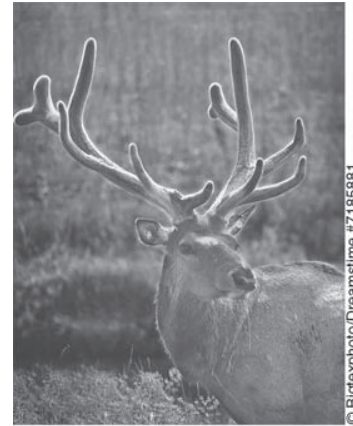
- 5 Antlers look like horns, but they are different in many interesting ways. Unlike horns, antlers are often branched. The branches usually have separate tines, or points. When antlers first begin to grow, they are made of a soft material called cartilage. Your nose is also made of cartilage. These new antlers are covered with fuzzy skin called velvet. As the antlers grow, the soft cartilage is replaced by hard bone. The fuzzy skin cover dries out and is rubbed off. This exposes the hard, bony antlers. Antlers grow surprisingly fast. Every year, antlers fall off and then new ones grow back.

Which animals have antlers?

- 6 Some animals that have antlers are deer, moose, and elk. Male deer are well known for their antlers. Some deer have large, heavy sets of antlers with many points. Male moose grow very large, broad antlers. The antlers can grow to be four to five feet wide.

Telling the Difference

- 7 The next time you see an animal with horns or antlers, think about what you have learned. It won't be long before you will be able to tell which animals have horns and which animals have antlers.



Elk

19 What is the meaning of the word unusual in Paragraph 4?

- A very usual
- B not usual
- C usual again
- D usual before

Go On ►

20 Look at the chart.

| Horns | Antlers | Unusual Horns |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| cows | deer | rhinoceros |
| antelope | moose | giraffes |
| buffalo | elk | |
| sheep | | |

According to the chart, which two animals have horns?

- F** buffalo and sheep
- G** antelope and moose
- H** cows and deer
- J** elk and giraffes

21 Which question is answered in Paragraph 2?

- A** What are horns used for?
- B** Which types of animals have horns?
- C** What kind of material are horns covered with?
- D** Why are female horns smaller than male horns?