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**BBC** LEARNING ENGLISH

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June 2008

- Pygmy hippo
- Ghost writers
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March - April 2008



A pygmy hippo in London Zoo

Pygmy hippo

This week, we hear how a rare and endangered species of animal, the pygmy hippopotamus (or 'hippo' for short), has been found in Liberia.

**This week's question:** In addition to the threat of deforestation, the pygmy hippo also faces the threat of 'poaching'. Which of these definitions of the verb 'to poach' are NOT true?

- a) 'to catch and kill animals without permission on someone else's land'
- b) 'to take something that belongs to someone else, usually an idea, and use it for yourself'
- c) 'to persuade someone who works for someone else to come and work for you'

Listen out for the answer at the end of the programme!

Listen



### Vocabulary from the programme

**habitat**

the natural surroundings in which an animal or plant usually lives

**deforestation**

the cutting down of trees in a large area, the destruction of forests by people

**pygmy**

smaller than the usual type

**miniature**

extremely small

**shy**

nervous

**elusive**

difficult to find

**cryptic**

mysterious

**nocturnal**

active during the night



**Extras**

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Read the BBC News story - Rare pygmy hippos caught on film  
Learn more about the pygmy hippo\*  
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