



Sloths are the slowest mammal on Earth. Despite their sluggishness, they have adapted to their environment in unique and marvellous ways since their last known ancestors roamed the Earth around 30 million years ago. Living mainly in the tropical rainforests of South and Central America, these herbivores spend 85-95 per cent of their lifetime hanging upside down, eating leaves and taking the occasional swim.



Unfortunately, due to deforestation, sloths are quickly losing their habitats. Working with local and national governments in Central and South America, many wildlife charities are helping to safeguard sloths and their territories: they are establishing natural sloth sanctuaries in Costa Rica and Peru.

Zany and unique, sloths are one of the more bizarre creatures to be found on our planet. With their extraordinary body adaptations and quirky habits, sloths have lived for millions of years and will hopefully live for a million more.



1

**Find and copy** one word from the first paragraph which suggests that sloths have changed over time.

2

Match each of these facts with the correct answer.

The length of time since the sloths ancestors lived.

85-95%

The amount of time sloths spend hanging upside down.

around 30 million years

Sloths are the \_\_\_\_\_ mammal on earth.

Central and South American rainforests

The sloths' habitat.

slowest

3

What can you infer about sloths from the photographs that have been included?

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4

What do sloths occasionally enjoy?

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5

What impression does this text give you of sloths?

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