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Visayan Warty Pigs

By Guy Belleranti



The Visayan warty pig is one of the world's most endangered animals.

A Visayan warty pig is a small species of wild pig native to the



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replaced about 95 percent of the warty pigs' former habitats. This loss of habitat has made the pigs extinct on four of the islands. They are very endangered on the other two.

Warty pigs are omnivores. An omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and other animals. They eat fruit, insects, and earthworms and use their long snouts for finding underground roots and tubers. They also eat seeds and play a critical role in dispersing the seeds of some plant species. With farms replacing their wild habitat, they often pig out on farmers' crops. Of course, farmers don't like this. So people hunt the pigs, which endangers them even more.

Some people call Visayan warty pigs "punk rock pigs." No, it's not

because they like loud rock music! Instead, it's because the boars grow stiff spiky manes during mating season.

These manes can grow up to nine inches long. The male pigs raise their manes to make themselves appear larger and more threatening to other male pigs.



Warty pig moms usually give birth to three or four piglets. They are good mothers and very protective. The piglets have stripes on them when they are very



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about them.

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1. According to the article, why do scientists think Visayan warty pigs have warty bumps on their faces?
 - a. The warty bumps help them identify each other.
 - b. The warty bumps help them forage for food.
 - c. The warty bumps help act as protection.



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- a. If you see a wild warty pig mom and her piglets, you should approach slowly.
 - b. Farmers often consider Visayan warty pigs to be a nuisance to their crops.
 - c. Visayan warty pigs are extinct on four of the six Visayan Islands.
4. According to what you read in the article, what are two characteristics of male warty pigs, or boars, during the mating season? Write **two** complete sentences.

5. How have scientists learned most of what they know about the Visayan warty pigs?

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1. o _ _ i _ _ or



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4. c _ _ ir _ _ at

clue: very important; essential

5. _ _ r o _ _ e _ _ _ i v _ _

clue: keeping away from harm

6. _ _ u _ _ e _ _

clue: a type of root that some animals eat

7. d _ _ s p _ _ _ s _ _

clue: scatter around in different places

8. _ _ u _ _ _ s

clue: long, pointed teeth that grow out the sides of certain mammals' mouths

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

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In the article, "Visayan Warty Pigs," you learned many interesting facts about this very endangered species of wild pigs.

One of the facts you learned about Visayan warty pigs is that warty pigs have lost most of their forest habitat to farmland. On the lines below, describe three ideas that



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5. How have scientists learned most of what they know about the Visayan warty pigs?

**Scientists have learned most of what they know about warty
pigs by studying them in zoos.**

