



Pigs

Curriculum Links:

- **Science** Living things
Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself and the wider world

Lesson objectives:

To revise material covered in Module 1. To name some of the body parts of the pigs and discover what they eat and how they live.

Teacher guidelines

It is suggested that teachers ensure students are familiar with the vocabulary and concepts introduced in the previous module before starting this lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in Module 1:

sow boar piglet litter grunt shed meat ham rashers sausages

Pigs provide us with meat like ham, rashers and sausages. A female pig is called a sow. A male pig is called a boar. A young pig is called a piglet. Pigs are kept in sheds.

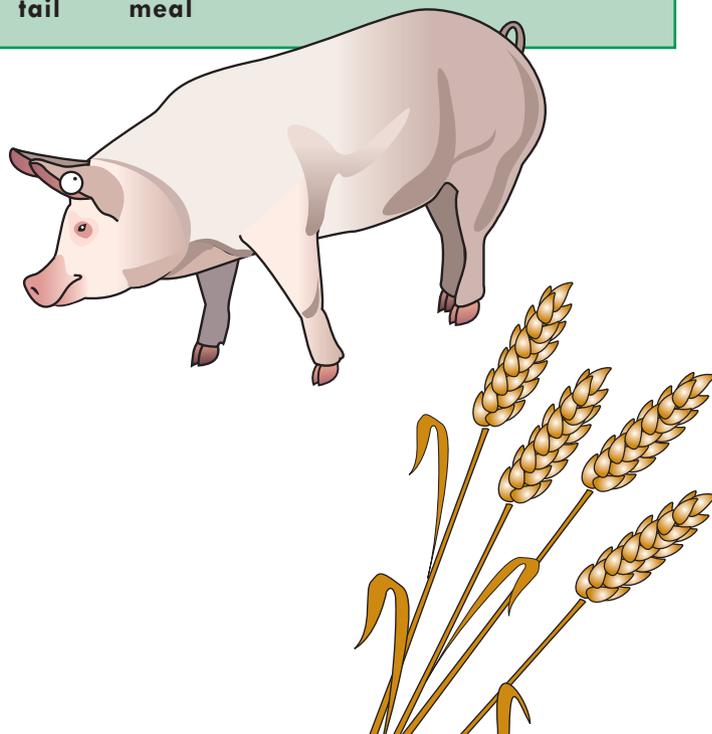
After revision of the above, teachers could discuss the more detailed information below.

Keywords for this lesson:

snout crubeen tail meal

What do pigs look like?

Many breeds of pig have pink skin, but they can also have skin with different colours. They have a nose called a **snout**, which they use for rooting in the ground for food. Pigs' feet are often called trotters or **crubeens**. The word crubeen comes from the Irish word crúibín, meaning "little hoof". Crubeens have four toes, two on the ground like a hoof and two on the back of the ankle. Pigs have a short, curly **tail**.



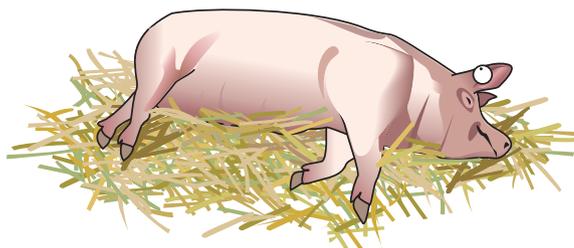
What do they eat?

Pigs are omnivores, their diet usually comprises of **meal** made from cereals (further information on cereals can be found on page 14).

Did you know pigs are very clever animals?

Pigs are not dirty animals like some people think.

Pigs are very clever, they are able to learn more quickly than horses or dogs and can be easily trained. They keep their beds very clean and go to the toilet (in a dark corner) away from where they sleep. Pigs who are kept outside may roll in the mud during the summer to keep themselves cool. Pigs can get sunburnt and the mud protects them from the sun.



Suggested activities:

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 45
- Discuss pigs and explore what different pig breeds look like. Encourage students to use correct vocabulary. Ask students to draw labelled pictures that will clearly show the ears, eyes, mouth, hooves and tail of the pig. If possible, get students to label the different cuts of meat we get from pigs
- Watch the film 'Babe' with the students and discuss the fact that Babe the pig was so easily trained
- Students could draw an illustrated list of products that we get from pigs
- Students could draw and label the members of the pig family i.e. boar, sow, piglet, litter
- As part of circle time, examine pictures/photographs of pigs. During circle time, ask students to think about pigs, how they act and what they do. With support, students could write and solve riddles for all the farm animals. For example "I have four legs. I feed my babies milk. I have a short curly tail. Who am I?"
- Discuss the fact that people, animals and plants depend on one another and that we rely on farming for food (see 'The Irish farmer' page 2)
- Create a Venn diagram and label as 'common', 'uncommon' and 'similar'. Examine pictures/photos of pigs. Compare them to other farm animals under the headings of colour, size, where they live and what food they provide us with
- Visit a farm or book an Agri Aware Mobile Farm visit to your school
- For extension material, see Modules 3 and 4

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should know and understand the words relating to the body parts of pigs, know what pigs eat and how they live.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie

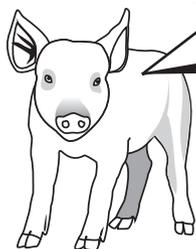


Pigs

Name: _____

Date: _____

1



Help me to put these words in the right place:
piglet, ham, boar, litter, sow

I am a male pig, I am a _____

I am a female pig, I am a _____

I am a young pig, I am a _____

A group of young pigs is a _____

We get _____ from pigs.

Did you know?

Pigs use their tails for swatting flies

2

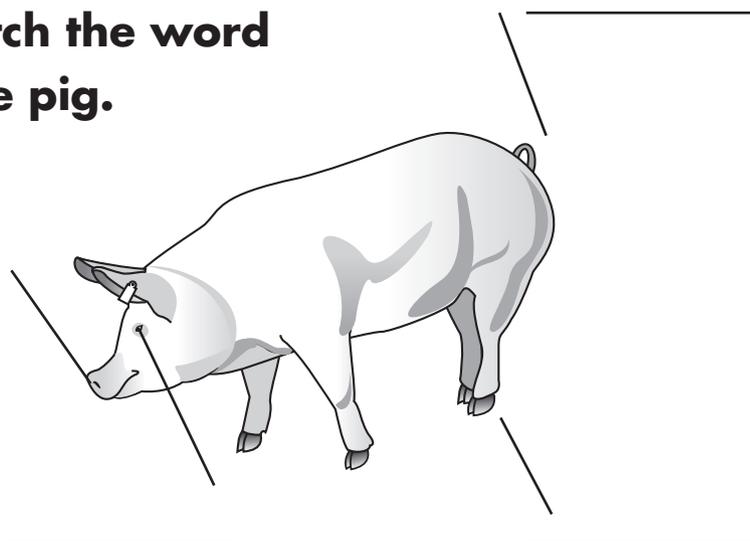
Look at the picture. Match the word to the correct part of the pig.

Snout (Nose)

Tail

Eyes

Crubeen (Foot)



* To be used with teacher guidelines, page 10