

## Hamsters

Hamsters are a kind of rodent. These small, fluffy animals make great pets for people. They can stand up on their back legs to look around. But they do not like to do it a lot.

Hamsters can live about four years. An adult hamster is about six inches (15 centimeters) long. Hamsters have short legs and noses. Their tails are also very short. They have big cheeks that they use to hide food in.

They like to do most things at night. This is called nocturnal. Hamsters like to live alone. They do not like to be social. They like to be the only hamster in their cage.

There are 24 different kinds of hamsters in the world. They can be many different colors. They like to eat many things like nuts, seeds, grain, corn, and small insects. They also like fruits and vegetables.



## Gerbils

Gerbils are a kind of rodent. These small, fluffy animals make great pets for people. They love to stand up on their back legs to get a look around.

Gerbils can live about seven years. An adult gerbil is about four inches (10 centimeters) long. Gerbils have longer legs and noses than hamsters. Their tails are also long like a mouse. They do not hide food.

Gerbils do things both during the day and at night. They are not nocturnal. They like to live with other gerbils in groups. They like to be social. That means that they like to be around other gerbils in groups.

There are 90 different kinds of gerbils in the world. They can be many different colors. They like to eat many things like seeds, fruits, vegetables, and insects. They also like nuts and grain.





Compare two types of rodents.

Hamster	Both	Gerbil
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# Rodents

(Order Rodentia)

Rodents are mammals with two pairs of teeth that keep growing. They must chew a lot so that their teeth do not get too long. The name rodent comes from the Latin language and means gnaw. Gnaw means to chew. There are many different kinds of rodents. In fact, 40% of all mammals are rodents. Let's look at some different kinds of rodents.

**muskrat**



**beaver**



**capybara**



**mouse**



**vole**



**rat**



**guinea pig**



**gerbil**



**hamster**



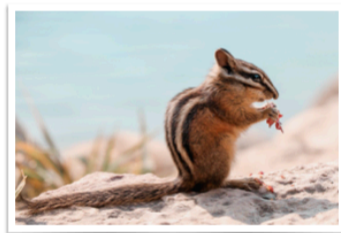
**chinchilla**



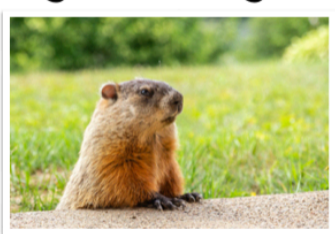
**squirrel**



**chipmunk**



**groundhog**



**porcupine**



**prairie dog**



What is your favorite rodent and why?

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## Rodent Find

Rodents are good at hiding. Find and circle the rodents.



How many rodents did you see? Which rodent was the hardest to find? Why do you think that rodent was hard to locate?

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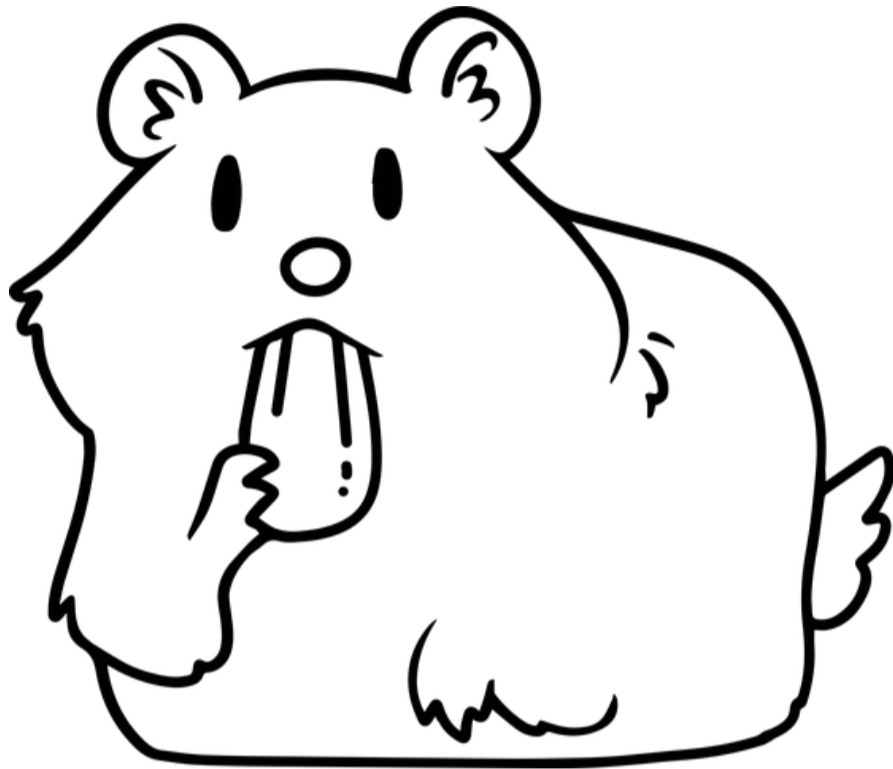
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# a Messy Classroom

Color the hamster. Write at least three sentences about hamsters.



Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.