

## Teacher Resource Sheet: Pre-Reading Activity

### So You Think You Know Guinea Pigs?

**Lesson Introduction:** Ask class if they know what a guinea pig is. Consider letting one or two share their answer with the class.

**Section I:** Hand out this worksheet. Tell them you are going to check their knowledge. Go over the directions for the first part. **True or False.** Have them answer alone or with a partner. Then go over the correct answers: 1. *False.* 2. *True or False.* 3. *True.* 4. *True or False.* 5. *True.* 6. *True.* 7. *False* (Colony is one male with five to six females. 8. *True* (These (along with humans) are the only animals whose bodies don't make vitamin c. It must be eaten.) 9. *False*

**Section II:** Ask students if they know any **foods that contain vitamin C.** Have them write down at least four examples. Try to give them common foods and one uncommon. **Examples:** *oranges* (Explain that all citrus fruits have vitamin C? Ask them if they know any citrus fruits, but only list one), *Broccoli, kiwi, strawberries, tomatoes, cherries, hot chili peppers, red cabbage.*

**Section III: Circle the Animal:** Go over each animal together one by one. Ask students if a guinea pig has anything in common with each. The correct answers are *squirrels, rats, beavers, mice and hamsters.*

**Section IV: Think About It:** Have them discuss this with a partner and write down their idea or draw it. Then share with the class.

**Bonus:** Ask them to find out the Scientific Classification of the guinea pig for homework. Answer: Family: Caviidae, Genus: Cavia, Most pet guinea pigs are Species: C. porcellus. If they do this you can go on to tell them that the guinea pig is also referred to as a **Cavy**. Ask them why this would be? Hint: It's close to the Genus name.

# So You Think You Know Guinea Pigs?

Directions: Answer True or False to the following statements to check your Guinea Pig knowledge.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Guinea Pigs are most active during the day.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ My mother serves guinea pig for holiday meals.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Guinea Pigs make great pets.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have a pet guinea pig.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Guinea Pigs can run when they are only 3 hours old.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Alfalfa is a guinea pig's favorite food.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Wild guinea pigs live in colonies of 20.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Guinea pig and Human bodies don't make vitamin C.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Guinea pigs are just small furry pigs.

## Think About It:

**Guinea Pig teeth never stop growing.  
How can they keep them short?**

These Foods Contain Vitamin C:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Eat Up!

Circle the animals that guinea pigs are related to: Squirrels Rats

Pigs Beavers Cats Mice Hamsters