

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unusual Animals: The Markhor



There are many different types of goat in the world. Goats are known for having a strong appetite. Domestic goats, like the kind the live in petting zoos or on farms, have small horns. Not the Markhor. The markhor is a wild goat that is easily recognized because of it's impressive horns.

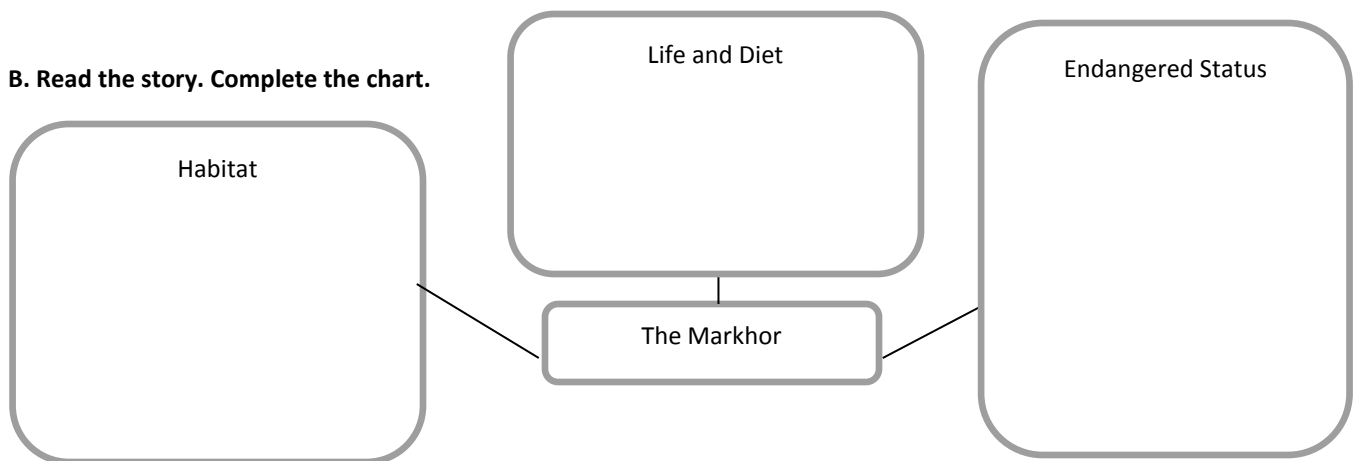
The markhor makes its home in only a few countries. It can be found in Afghanistan, northern Pakistan and other mountainous countries nearby. Like goats, the markhor is a grazing animal. In the summer it eats grasses and leaves that grow in the forests. In the winter it browses, moving and searching for food that it can eat.

The markhor will even stand on its legs to reach leaves on bushes and trees.

The markhor's horns give it an unusual look. Both male and female markhor's grow horns. The horns of the male are much longer. The male's horns can grow up to 64 inches (160 cm) long. Unfortunately, the beautiful horns and small range have endangered the markhor. People hunted the markhor for sport and to take the horns. Some think that the horns have medical properties. Currently, there are thought to be less than 3,000 markhor living in the wild.

A. Where does the fossa live? _____

B. Read the story. Complete the chart.



C. The Markhor lives across a few countries. Use a computer. Write the countries where a Markhor lives below. Check your answers with a partner.