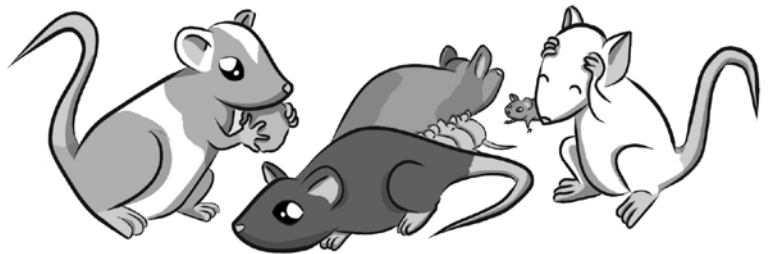


A Rat's Life

Amazing Facts

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1. Rats are very clean animals. They work very hard to rid themselves of dirt. Just like cats, rats and mice can spend hours grooming themselves.
T or F?
 2. Rats enjoy the companionship of other animals.
T or F?
 3. Mice and rats have a complex language system—they can communicate by touch, by smell, and by sound at frequencies that we can't hear.
T or F?
 4. Mother rats will go to great lengths to save their babies. They will even go through great danger and pain to save the babies of other rats.
T or F?
 5. Rats are most active at night.
T or F?
 6. Rats have poor eyesight but have excellent senses of smell, taste, and touch.
T or F?
 7. If no one forces them to live in dirty cages, rats' skin actually has a nice scent.
T or F?
 8. Rats are smart, curious, and friendly.
T or F?
 9. Rats feel pain, just as dogs and cats do.
T or F?



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Answers: all true!

A Rat's Life

Reading Questions

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1. Which character in the comic book did you most relate to? Explain what you liked best about this character.
 2. What did you learn about rats? What characteristic(s) of rats surprised you the most?
 3. Imagine if you were Sunshine the rat and you were stuck inside a tiny cage to be tested on as part of a cruel experiment. Describe how you would feel when you were rescued by a loving family.
 4. When describing the cruel conditions in laboratories, Sam says, "Tobacco companies cut up dogs and other animals, pump them full of nicotine, and force them to inhale smoke." If you were an animal, how would you feel about this?
 5. What are the charities that Sam's mother suggested as good charities to raise money for in schools? Which charities did she say hurt animals?
 6. What are some things that people can do to help mice and rats?
 7. Write a fictional story about an animal rescue in which you are a main character.

