

# Taking Care of a Hamster



Hamsters are small but need plenty of room to run around.

## A hamster



## Things a hamster will need:

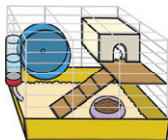
food bowl



water bottle



cage



toy



teeth

Hamsters have sharp teeth and big cheeks to hold food in.



Hamsters need to eat the right food to keep them well. They need some dry food and just a little fruit or vegetables. They also need to drink water.

# Questions

1. Choose the right word to complete this sentence:

Hamsters have \_\_\_\_\_ teeth.

long

sharp

yellow

2. What does a hamster need to drink?

water

milk

juice

3. Why do hamsters have big cheeks?

to look pretty

to help them breathe

to hold food in

4. Find and copy one word which means 'space'.

---

5. Hamsters are ....

big

small

tiny

# Answers

1. Choose the right word to complete this sentence:

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3. Why do hamsters have big cheeks?

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4. Find and copy one word which means 'space'.

**room**

5. Hamsters are ....

big

small

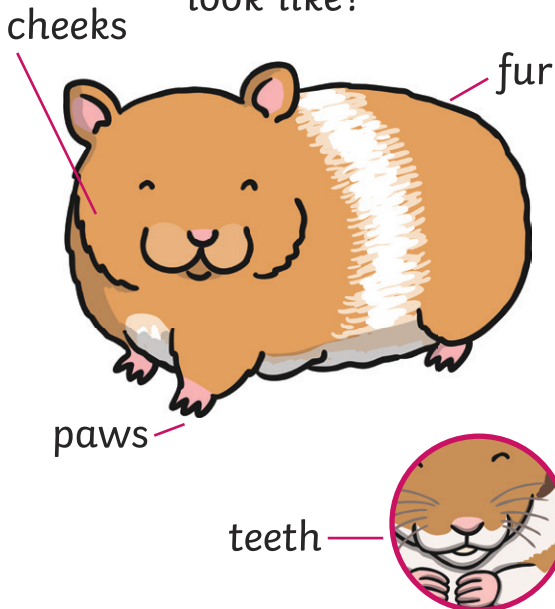
tiny

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Hamsters can make very good pets. They are friendly and like to be held. They also like to climb.

What does a hamster look like?

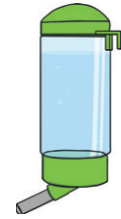


What does a hamster need?

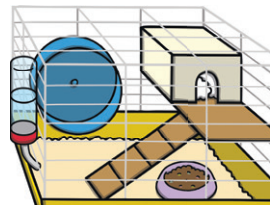
food bowl



water bottle



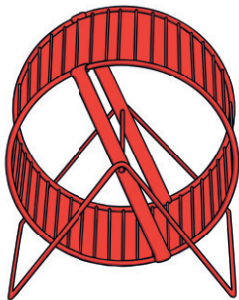
cage



toys

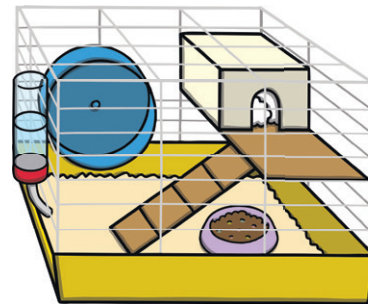


What do I need to remember about having a hamster?



Hamsters like to run around and play. They need toys to play with and they like to have a wheel to run on. They also like to run through tunnels.

How do I keep a hamster healthy?



Hamsters need to eat the right food to stay well. They need a mixture of fresh vegetables and dried food. They need to stay active so a big cage with lots of things for them to do is great.

# Questions

1. Choose the right word to complete this sentence:

Hamsters have \_\_\_\_\_ . (Tick two.)

paws

scales

teeth

2. What do hamsters like to run on?

a park

a garden

a wheel

3. Hamsters need to eat vegetables.

true

false

4. A cage with tunnels keeps a hamster...

active

thin

tired

5. Find and copy a word which means correct.

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# Answers

1. Choose the right word to complete this sentence:

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paws

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5. Find and copy a word which means correct.

**right**

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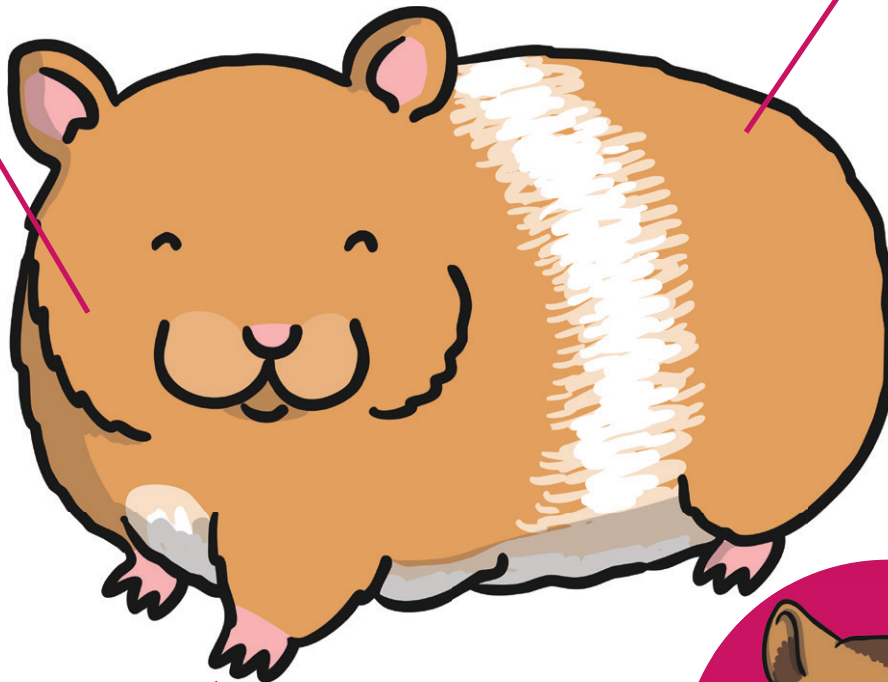
A hamster can be a good choice for your first pet. They are quite easy to take care of and love to climb and play.

## What Does a Hamster Look Like?

Hamsters are small animals. They have four legs and smooth, soft fur. They have strong teeth for biting hard food. Inside their cheeks, they have special pouches to store food.

cheeks for storing food

fur to help them stay warm



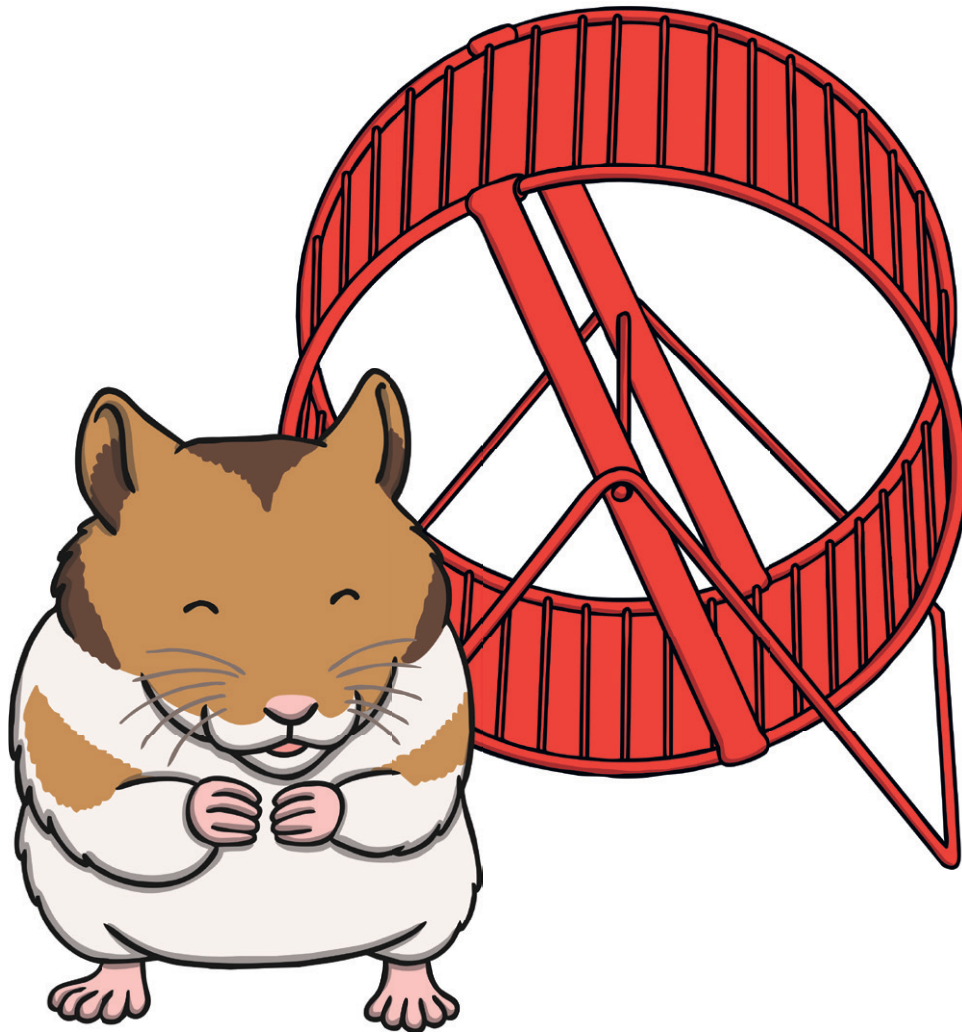
paws with claws for gripping



teeth for chewing food

### What Else Do I Need to Keep a Hamster Healthy?

Although they are small, hamsters need plenty of exercise. You can provide a cage with tunnels for them to run around or get a wheel for them to run in. Hamsters love to play at various times of day. You may hear their wheel spinning throughout the night.





# Questions

1. Why are hamsters a good choice for a first pet?

They are easy to take care of.

They are slow.

They are soft.

2. Why do hamsters have special pouches in their cheeks?

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3. Why are bars inside hamsters' cages a good idea?

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4. Find and copy **one** word which means 'lots'.

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5. How can you give a hamster exercise?

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6. Would you choose a hamster for a pet? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. Why are hamsters a good choice for a first pet?

They are easy to take care of.

They are slow.

They are soft.

2. Why do hamsters have special pouches in their cheeks?

**Hamsters have special pouches in their cheeks to store food.**

3. Why are bars inside hamsters' cages a good idea?

**Bars inside hamsters' cages are a good idea because they can use them to climb.**

4. Find and copy **one** word which means 'lots'.

**plenty**

5. How can you give a hamster exercise?

**A hamster can be given exercise by providing a wheel or tunnels for it to play on.**

6. Would you choose a hamster for a pet? Explain your answer.

**Child's own response.**