

CAMELS

THEORY OF EVOLUTION

Camels originated in North America about 40 to 50 million years ago, starting as rabbit-sized creatures. Over millions of years, they grew into massive, moose-sized giants in ancient Arctic boreal forests, and they walked to the deserts and they started to adapt to the harsh environment.

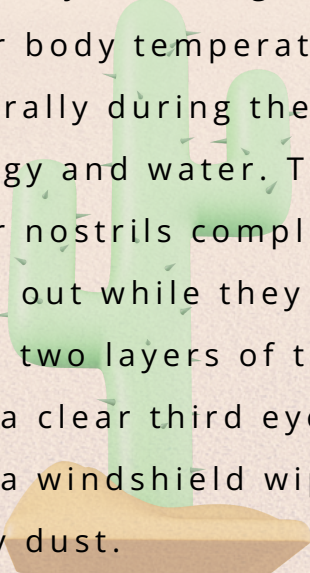
THE WILD BACTRIAN CAMEL

NATURAL SELECTION

Natural selection shaped the wild Bactrian camel so it can drink salty water. Store fat in its hump when food is scarce, and reproduce.

ADAPTATION

The wild bactrian camel is the only mammal known to drink water that is saltier than the ocean. They grow super thick hair to stay warm in the winter, and they serve it in chunks when it gets hot. Instead of wasting water by sweating, they can let their body temperature rise naturally during the day to save energy and water. They can close their nostrils completely to keep sand out while they breathe. They have two layers of thick eyelashes and a clear third eyelid that works like a windshield wiper to clear away dust.



DROMEDARY CAMEL

NATURAL SELECTION

Natural selection shaped the dromedary camel to carry heavy loads of up to 100 to 200 kg and travel 60 to 80 km a day.

ADAPTATION

The dromedary camel has long legs to keep its body far from the hot ground. Its padded feet prevent sinking into soft sand and protect against hot surfaces. Its long eyelashes and bushy eyebrows shield the eyes from sand and sunlight. It can close during sandstorms to keep out blowing sand. Their blood is special; it's shaped like an oval, which keeps their cells from popping even when they drink that much water all at once.



When they finally find a water hole. They can drink 57 liters of water in just a few minutes. Their blood is special; it's shaped like an oval, which keeps their cells from popping even when they drink that much water all at once.

They can tolerate the heat instead of sweating. Resting during the hot periods helps avoid excessive heat. The dromedary camel can drink up to about 100–150 liters of water in a single drinking session after becoming dehydrated.

CONCLUSION

Camels live a normal life, even though they live in the desert. They just need to adapt.



