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# Hello Children

## Where in the world would you find the most pigs?



There are about 860 million pigs on farms throughout the world. China has the most, over 40 percent of the world total. About one-fifth of the farms in the United States raise pigs - about a quarter of the meat eaten in the United States comes from pigs.

There are many different kinds of pigs reared around the world. As pigs have a short reproductive cycle, new breeds can be developed over a relatively short period of time. Pigs reproduce rapidly and can mate when only about eight months old. Sows carry their young for about 114 days before giving birth, usually to 8 to 12 piglets at a time. Pigs reach maturity at 1½ to 2 years of age and can live from 9 to 15 years .

### FACT FILE

A pig has four toes on each foot. Each toe ends in a hoof. The two middle hoofs are divided on all pigs, except the Mule-foot breed. Mule-foot pigs have a solid, or single-toed, hoof in the middle of each foot.

