

Pigs in a Pen

Pigs are very intelligent and social animals. They have specific places in their living space for sleeping, going to the bathroom, and cooling down. Pigs also like to sleep nose to nose and snuggle with pen mates. Many products we use come from pigs including ham, bacon and materials for some sports equipment.

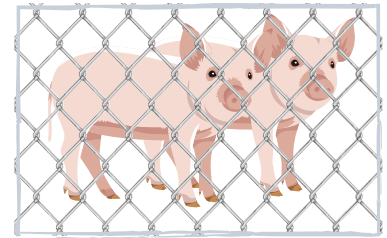
Materials: Blanket or sheet, stuffed animals or cushions

Directions: Transform your living room into a farm and start acting! Following the steps below, you will experience the different pen sizes pigs live in, and how these changes would feel.

1

Select one person to be the farmer, everyone else, that means stuffed animals and cushions, are pigs. Start with the blanket or sheet open flat. That will be the pigs pen.

Can you move the toys/cushions around without removing them from the pen?



2

The farmer decides to double the amount of pigs, this means the pen gets smaller (fold in half). Is it getting more difficult to move the "pigs" around in the pen?

3

The farmer keeps doubling the number of pigs and the pen gets smaller and smaller until the pigs are squished together. How would it feel not having space to move comfortably?

Thinking Question:

What are some natural behaviors of pigs? Do all animals deserve lots of space to practice their natural behaviours? How do you feel when you can't run and play? Do you begin feeling frustrated and annoyed?