

The growth and development of pigs

How fast does a pig grow?

Make a prediction! How long does it take a pig to reach market weight? Watch the video **“What do pigs eat?”** (https://youtu.be/tGfIS_80rgo) and answer the following questions:

1. What types of foods do pigs eat?

Sow's milk, Soybean meal, corn, vitamins and mineral supplement.

2. Why does this feed change as the pigs grow larger?

Weaned pigs no longer receive milk. Protein and vitamin/mineral supplement percentages change as pigs become more mature.

3. How large will a baby pig grow as it gets ready to go to market?

250 pounds.

When the video is complete, check your answers with a partner. Was your prediction correct?

Answers will vary.

Plot the following coordinates on the graph below and draw a line connecting the points.

Birth

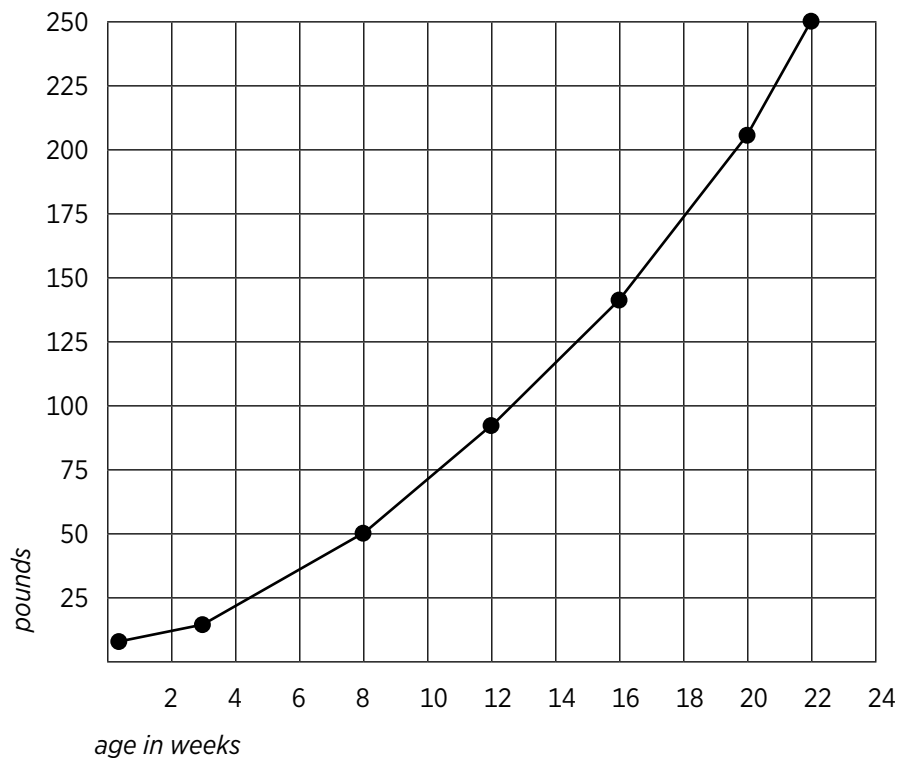
- 0 weeks, 3 pounds

Weanling to maturity

- 3 weeks, 15 pounds
- 8 weeks, 50 pounds
- 12 weeks, 90 pounds
- 16 weeks, 145 pounds
- 20 weeks, 210 pounds

Market

- 22 weeks, 250 pounds



What does the graph tell us?

1. In 6 weeks, how much should a pig weigh?

250 pounds

2. How old should a pig be when it weighs 125 pounds?

~14½ weeks

3. How fast does a pig grow? Write down your answer, then ask your neighbor a question about how a pig grows.

Answers will vary (~250 pounds in 22 to 24 weeks).

4. What is the life cycle of a pig? Can you explain a pig's growth from its birth to the time it is harvested?

Answers will vary.

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