



- Despite their names, **naked mole rats** are neither moles nor rats (nor are they totally hairless). They are more closely related to porcupines and guinea pigs.
- Naked mole rats live in the horn of Africa and are native to Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- A colony of **naked mole rats** can consist of 20 to 300 individuals. Their underground territory can be as large as six football fields.
- The burrow has rooms for specific purposes, such as nesting, raising young, eating and, um, waste disposal.
- They're not blind. However, their eyes are very small and naked mole rats will often close them when they run through the tunnels.
- A mole rat's incisors can be moved independently of each other and even work together like a pair of chopsticks.
- They are the longest-lived rodents, with a lifespan of up to 30 years.
- No one has ever found cancer in naked mole rats; they appear to be resistant to the disease.
- Scientists recently **sequenced the genome** of the naked mole rat, hoping to find the secret to its long life and disease resistance.

Alicia Hsu 2019



In **Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed** by Mo Willems, Wilber is different from the other naked mole rats. Wilber is the only naked mole rat who likes to wear clothes. Even though the other naked mole rats are angry, and unkind to him, Wilber continues to wear clothes.

For homework, write about a time when you or someone you know had the courage to be different from others. What did you do? Were others unkind or angry? Did anyone support you? What do you hope your children learn from your story? We will share our stories in class next week.

Homework by Yun (ESOL Student)

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This homework made me think a lot. It was difficult for me because I think I've never been different from others. I'm used to being in the middle of many things. I was neither tall nor short, neither fat nor skinny. My family was neither big nor small, neither rich nor poor. When I was a student, I was quiet and my grades were average. I tried not to be different. I'm always happy and I think things are going well. I neither lack nor have more than I need of anything.

I realize that my difference is my distinction too. I'm a positive person and I'm content with my life. Sometimes I may be too optimistic. When my friends or family tell me about their worries, I always say it'll be fine. Sometimes they feel I'm not helpful and I can't empathize with them. I hope my son will learn from my story. Positive thinking is good, but maybe not always. I hope he will be able to figure this out and find his own difference and distinction.