
Birds and Mammals • Guided Reading and Study

Mammals

This section describes the characteristics of mammals.

Use Target Reading Skills

After you read the section, reread the paragraphs that contain definitions of Key Terms. Use all the information you have learned to write a definition of each Key Term in your own words.

Characteristics of Mammals

- **1.** Circle the letter of each characteristic of mammals.
 - **a.** endothermic vertebrate **b.** feathers
 - c. three-chambered heart d. teeth
- 2. Is the following sentence true or false? The young of most mammals are born alive. _____
- **3.** Every young mammal is fed with ______ produced in its mother's body.

Match the type of teeth with their function. Some functions may be used more than once.

- Teeth
- _____ **4.** canines
- ____ **5.** molars
- **6.** incisors
 - _ 7. premolars

- Function
 - a. Bite off and cut parts of food
 - **b.** Stab food and tear it
 - c. Grind and shred food into tiny bits



8. Look at the teeth in the diagram above. Is this animal an herbivore or a carnivore? How do you know?

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Mammals (continued)

- 9. Is the following sentence true or false? All mammals, except whales, breathe with lungs.
- **10.** Mammals breathe in and out because of the combined action of rib muscles and a large muscle called the _____ located at the bottom of the ribs.
- **11.** Circle the letter of the number of chambers in a mammal's heart.
 - a. two
 - **b.** three
 - **c.** four
 - **d.** five
- **12.** Is the following sentence true or false? All mammals have fur or hair at some point in their lives.
- **13.** How do fur and hair help mammals?
- **14.** Generally, animals in cold regions have _____ coats of fur than animals in warmer environments.
- 15. Most mammals have four ______ and can walk and run.

Match the type of mammal with its specialized way of moving.

Way o	of Mo	oving
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- **a.** Have flippers for swimming
- ____ 17. dolphins

Mammal

18. orangutans

16. bats

- **b.** Have wings for flying **c.** Swing by their arms
- **19.** What sense do bats use to capture insects?

20. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about mammals' nervous system.

- a. The brain helps mammals sense their environment and behave in complex ways.
- **b.** Bears cannot smell their prey.
- c. The senses of mammals are adapted for the ways that individual species live.
- **d.** The brain is not well-developed.

 Name_____
 Date_____
 Class _____

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Diversity of Mammals

- **21.** The three main groups of mammals are _____, _____, and _____.
- 22. Is the following sentence true or false? Marsupials are mammals that lay eggs._____
- **23.** Circle the letter of each animal that is a placental mammal.
 - a. kangaroo
 - **b.** elephant
 - **c.** duck-billed platypus
 - **d.** chimpanzee