

What Is a Mammal?

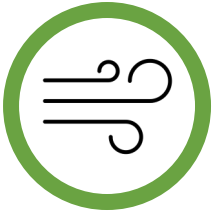
Mammals are a group of animals. Mammals come in all shapes and sizes, from elephants to mice to humans! All mammals are alike in some ways. What do all mammals have in common?

Fur or Hair



All mammals have fur or hair covering their bodies. Sometimes it can be hard to see, like the smooth fur of a seal. Sometimes it can be very visible, like the fluffy fur of a camel. This fur helps mammals stay warm, block out heat, camouflage from predators, and communicate with other animals.

Breathe with Lungs



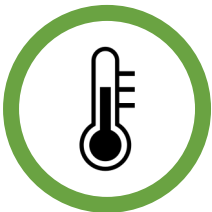
Mammals breathe through their lungs. The lungs take in oxygen from the air and release carbon dioxide into the air. Oxygen travels through the blood to the heart and brain, keeping these organs healthy. Other kinds of animals, like fish and insects, do not use lungs to breathe.

Live Birth



Most mammals give birth to live young. Mammal babies will stay with their mother for a long period of time, feeding on milk and learning how to survive. Some mammals are “monotremes,” which means they lay eggs! A platypus is an example of a monotreme.

Warm-Blooded



Mammals are warm-blooded, or “endothermic.” Their bodies stay the same temperature when it is hot or cold outside. Keeping your body the same temperature requires a lot of energy, so mammals eat more food and more often than most other kind of animals.

What Is a Mammal?

Complete each sentence with the correct word.

Sentence

- 1.) All mammals have _____ covering their bodies.
- 2.) Mammals breathe through their _____.
- 3.) Most mammals give birth to _____ young.
- 4.) Some mammals are _____, which means they lay eggs.
- 5.) Mammals are warm-blooded, or _____.



ANSWERS: 1.) fur or hair; 2.) lungs; 3.) live; 4.) monotremes; 5.) endothermic