

# MAMMAL LESSON PLAN

Lesson Topic: Mammals Grade level: Elementary Grades

Length of lesson: Approximately 5 days; will vary based on age and ability

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Stage 1 – Desired Results	
<p><b>Content Standard(s):</b> Instructor will determine which standards this lesson aligns to based on which standards (state or common core) are to be followed.</p>	
<p><b>Understanding (s)/goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will understand that mammals are a unique group within the animal kingdom.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Essential Question:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do the characteristics of a mammal distinguish them from other animal groups?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student objectives (outcomes):</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 5 common characteristics of most mammals.</li> <li>Name at least 5 mammals and tell 2 facts about each one.</li> <li>Identify mammals versus non-mammals.</li> <li>Understand key vocabulary from <u>The Fascinating World of Mammals</u> video.</li> </ul>	
Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence	
<p><b>Performance Task(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual assessment: Students will research and write an alphabet mammal book that presents a picture and at least 2 facts about a different mammal on each page. Encourage them to include one mammal per letter ("antelope" for A, "Bear" for B, "Cat" for C, etc.).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Evidence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of cloze activity while watching <u>The Fascinating World of Mammals</u> video.</li> <li>Completion of multiple choice quizzes at the end of <u>The Fascinating World of Mammals</u> video.</li> <li>Teacher will observe students as they work on the tasks.</li> <li>Assess students through conversations and questioning.</li> </ul>

### Stage 3 – Learning Plan

#### Learning Activities:

- Do KWL (what you know/what you want to know/what you have learned) to assess students' prior knowledge.
- Watch The Fascinating World of Mammals video; complete cloze activity while watching.
- Discuss specific unique characteristics of mammals; create list
- Mammals vs. non-mammals card sort.
- Clarify and provide further explanation, if needed, of “The Big Words.”
- Complete academic vocabulary booklet with “The Big Words.” Print off multiple pages of the graphic organizer. Allow student to create a cover on a blank piece of paper. Staple all pages together into a booklet.
- Complete acrostic poem

#### Field Trip Ideas:

- \*Zoo
- \*Farm
- \*Marine Mammal Center
- \*Museum of Natural History

# MAMMALS CLOZE

DIRECTIONS: While watching The Fascinating World of Mammals, circle the word that best complete the sentence with the correct information you hear from the video.

1. Mammals are animals with backbones. All mammals use their (**lungs, stomachs, toes**) to breathe in air. They are warm-blooded which means they maintain a constant body temperature no matter how hot or cold it is outside their body.
2. Mammals give birth to live young that they protect and care for before and after birth. They are able to produce (**juice, milk, water**) which provides food for their offspring.
3. The (**brains, hearts, eyes**) of mammals are much more advanced than those of any other animal. People are mammals too, and have the most complex and highly developed brain of all.
4. Mammals are the only animals that have (**fur, scales, hair**). Hair grows from skin cells called follicles and can take on many forms including thick fur, long whiskers, pointy quills or fearsome horns. Hair helps mammals in several different ways such as providing insulation, protecting the skin, and serving as camouflage.
5. Beavers have very powerful and large front (**noses, teeth, claws**). These orange colored chisel-like teeth are made for cutting down trees. The teeth are self-sharpening and grow all the time. Eating trees wears down the teeth and keeps them from growing too big.
6. Giraffes are most vulnerable to attack when they bend down to drink. Bending down is slow and awkward for such a (**tall, short, wide**) mammal. They have to spread their legs very far apart in order to reach the water.
7. Kangaroos are the only large animal to use (**skipping, running, hopping**) as a means of travel. They hop along at about 15 miles per hour but can move at 44 miles per hour over short distances.

8. African elephants are different from Asian elephants in many ways. One of the most noticeable differences is the larger (**trunks, ears, tails**) on the African elephant.

9. Moose are found in North America and Europe. The female moose, also called a cow, are smaller than the males and do not have antlers. Males also called bulls, have very large antlers that can be up to 6 feet wide. While the antlers are growing, they have a layer of skin called velvet. The velvet provides blood, oxygen and nutrients for the growing antlers. Once the (**ears, shoulders, antlers**) are full size the velvet falls off.

10. Dolphins have a streamlined body made for (**swimming, jumping, sliding**) fast. They have several fins attached to their body used for moving, steering and balance. The dorsal fin provides stability while swimming. The pectoral fins along with the entire tail section provide directional control, and the tail fin is used to propel the dolphin forward or backwards.

11. The Polar Bear and the Kodiak Brown Bear are the largest land carnivores. The Polar bear is found in the Arctic Circle and land nearby. The Polar Bear is considered a marine mammal because it spends many months at sea on the ice. Polar bears have large (**smooth, bumpy, furry**) feet to distribute their weight over the ice. The big feet make good paddles for swimming.

12. Bats are flying mammals. They are the only mammals capable of flying for long periods of time. The (**wings, feathers, talons**) of a bat are very different than the wings of a bird. Bat wings are modified arms. The skin forming the surface of the wing is called patagium. It is an extension of the skin of the abdomen that runs to the tip of each finger, connecting the forelimb with the body.

13. Chimpanzees are bipeds and walk on their (**fingers, feet, knees**) making it easier to carry something in their hands. Chimpanzees spend equal amounts of time on the ground and in the trees. They are omnivores and will eat a lot of different foods like fruits, nuts, seeds, insects and meat.

14. Lions are also unique in that they live and work together in large groups called prides. A pride consists of a few males and five or six females along with their cubs. (**Prides, Schools, Flocks**) can be as large as 30 individuals. Once male cubs grow up, they leave to establish their own pride by taking over a group headed by another male.

# MAMMALS CARD SORT

DIRECTIONS: Cut out word cards and picture cards. Glue them onto 3 x 5 notecards. Sort cards into two piles: mammals and non-mammals.

Beaver	Chameleon
Eagle	Giraffe
Kangaroo	Ladybug
Elephant	Goldfish
Salmon	Moose
Woodpecker	Dolphin
Bear	Snake
Rhino Beetle	Bat
Alligator	Chimpanzee
Lion	Frog











# ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Word:

Dictionary **Definition**:

Use the word in a complete sentence. This should help broaden your understanding of the word.

Draw a **picture** to help you explain what this word means:

# ACROSTIC POEM

DIRECTIONS: Use each of the letters in the word MAMMAL to begin each line. All lines of the poem should relate to or describe a MAMMAL.

M \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

# MAMMAL QUIZ

DIRECTIONS: Circle the answer that best completes the question/statement.

1. This mammal builds a dam.
  - A. Bat
  - B. Beaver
  - C. Chimpanzee
  
2. The tallest mammal is a...
  - A. Bear
  - B. Beaver
  - C. Giraffe
  
3. This mammal is known for its boxing.
  - A. Elephant
  - B. Lion
  - C. Kangaroo
  
4. Which mammal is the largest land animal on Earth?
  - A. Dolphin
  - B. Elephant
  - C. Kangaroo
  
5. What mammal has antlers with velvet on them?
  - A. Moose
  - B. Giraffe
  - C. Chimpanzee
  
6. This mammal lives in the water.
  - A. Kangaroo
  - B. Dolphin
  - C. Bat

7. This mammal is a good swimmer and can climb trees.
- A. Elephant
  - B. Moose
  - C. Bear
8. What mammal flies?
- A. Bat
  - B. Kangaroo
  - C. Lion
9. This mammal has opposable thumbs.
- A. Beaver
  - B. Chimpanzee
  - C. Dolphin
10. What mammal lives together in large groups called prides?
- A. Bat
  - B. Lion
  - C. Moose



# THE BIG WORDS QUIZ

DIRECTIONS: Circle the answer that best completes the question/statement.

1. An organ that is located in the chest area of mammals, where oxygen is breathed in and carbon dioxide is released is called its...

A. Gills.

B. Lungs.

C. Heart.

2. A mammal that eats grass, trees and plants but doesn't eat meat is called a...

A. Omnivore.

B. Carnivore.

C. Herbivore.

3. A mammal with a four chambered stomach is called a...

A. Primate.

B. Vegetarian.

C. Ruminant.

4. A system of categorizing living things by their common features or characteristics is called...

A. Grouping.

B. Scientific Classification.

C. Scientific Division.

5. Animals with a backbone, like mammals, are called...

A. Vertebrates.

B. Invertebrates.

C. Ruminants.

6. A mammal's home or natural surroundings is called its...

A. Domicile.

B. Habitat.

C. Community.

7. Bats, whales, and dolphins produce sound waves to find their way around and hunt for food in a process called...

A. Perception.

B. Illumination.

C. Echolocation.

8. When a mammal lowers its body temperature and slows its breathing in order to conserve energy for the winter, it is called...

A. Hibernation.

B. Mutation.

C. Petrification.

9. When mammals travel a long distance to find a better habitat, usually for more food, water, or to escape extreme hot or cold temperatures, it is called...

A. Migration.

B. Transference.

C. Adaptation.

10. A mammal that walks on two feet, like a human or chimp is called a...

A. Mutant.

B. Biped.

C. Quadruped

11. A person who specializes in the study of a group or particular type of mammal is called a...

A. Entomologist.

B. Paleontologist.

C. Mammologist

# QUIZ ANSWER KEYS

## Mammals Quiz

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. B

## The Big Words Quiz

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. B
11. C