

MAMMALS – EXERCISES

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Name a few mammals that swim in the oceans. _____
2. The only mammals that can fly are _____
3. Name a few features that make mammals different from other animals. _____
4. Which mammals are used as transport animals? _____
5. For which valuable material are elephants hunted? _____
6. When did the first mammals evolve? _____
7. Monotremes are mammals that _____
8. The largest group of mammals are the _____
9. Mammals use their body colour to _____
10. What are glands? _____
11. Mammals can stand or walk because they have a _____
12. What is the digestive system? _____
13. How do dolphins and whales breathe? _____
14. How do bats navigate? _____
15. What are primates? _____
16. Name a few plant-eating mammals. _____
17. Name a few meat-eating mammals. _____
18. Which mammals spend most of their life underground? _____
19. How do mammals reproduce? _____
20. Where do most of the world's marsupials live? _____
21. Why do some mammals hibernate? _____
22. In which way do Arctic foxes change the color of their fur? _____

2

Multiple Choice Test

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Omnivores are mammals that eat

- a. only meat.
- b. plants and leaves.
- c. only plants.
- d. both meat and plants.

2. Which animals use a special sound system to navigate ?

- a. primates.
- b. bats and dolphins.
- c. whales and seals.
- d. kangaroos and wombats.

3. What do glands produce?

- a. eggs.
- b. sperm.
- c. hormones.
- d. red blood cells.

4. When did the first mammals evolve?

- a. when the Earth was created.
- b. during the last Ice Age.
- c. when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.
- d. during the Mesozoic period.

5. Whales migrate to warmer water to

- a. raise their body temperature.
- b. get away from whale hunters.
- c. find other whales.
- d. give birth to babies.

6. What do poachers hunt elephants for?

- a. fat.
- b. tusks.
- c. skin.
- d. trunk.

7. Arctic foxes

- a. defend themselves with needles.
- b. change the colour of their fur.
- c. hide in trees.
- d. spray a bad-smelling liquid towards their attackers.

8. What do giant pandas eat?

- a. rice and corn.
- b. meat.
- c. bamboo.
- d. insects.

3

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	poacher		the hard, smooth, yellow material from the teeth of elephants
B	weed		organ of the body that produces sweat, milk and hormones
C	domesticate		person who catches or shoots an animal illegally
D	ivory		to die out
E	fertilizer		to take air in with your lungs
F	pouch		the soft, thick hair that covers an animal
G	become extinct		gas that has no colour or smell and which we need to breathe
H	fur		the row of bones down the centre of the back
I	brain		pocket of skin in an animal
J	breathe		member of a group of animals that includes humans and monkeys
K	hoof		wild plant that prevents crops from growing the right way
L	spine		arm or leg
M	gland		hard foot of a cow, horse, or camel
N	primate		to train an animal so that it can work or be a pet
O	digest		substance that is put into the soil to make plants grow
P	oxygen		to change the food you have eaten into substances that the body can use
Q	limb		organ inside your head that controls the way you move, feel and think

MAMMALS – EXERCISES

4

TRUE or FALSE. Decide if the sentences are True or False and tick them off (✓). If the sentence is false write a correct statement into the box on the right. The first TWO have been done for you.

	T	F	Correct Statement
1	Marsupials carry their babies in pouches	✓	
2	Bats use their sense of sight to navigate.	✓	Bats have a special sound system that they use to navigate.
3	Mammals have a large and well-developed brain.		
4	Mammals can change their body temperature depending on which climate zone they live in.		
5	The first mammals that appeared on earth were even larger than most dinosaurs.		
6	Whales belong to the group of primates.		
7	Carnivores are animals that eat other animals.		
8	Most mammals live on land.		
9	Only mammals with four legs have backbones.		
10	When an animal hibernates, their body temperature goes up.		
11	Elephants carry their unborn babies for almost two years.		
12	Plant-eating mammals have a complex digestive system		
13	Zebras and other wild animals do not migrate.		
14	Most female mammals lay eggs.		
15	Glands are organs that produce blood to survive.		

5

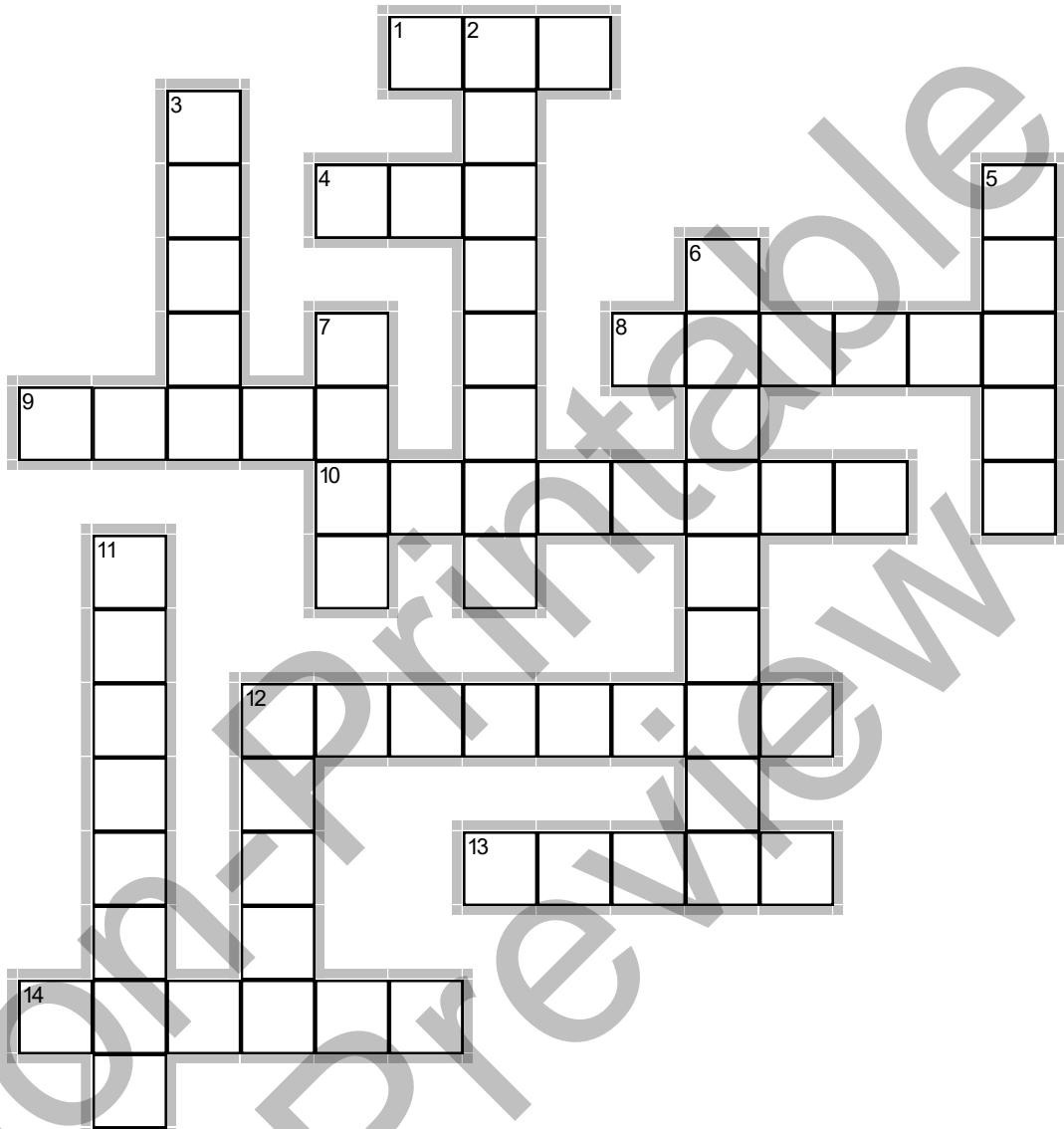
Facts about mammals. Complete the sentences with the correct word from the box.

backbone - bats - digestive - domesticated - extinct - fertilizer - glands - herbivores - hibernate - hoofs - marsupials - Mesozoic - migrate - omnivores - poachers - primates - reproduce - senses - sights - tail

1. Some mammals like squirrels _____ during the winter months.
2. The first mammals emerged during the _____ period.
3. As time went on, many mammals were _____ and helped humans with their work.
4. Animals that eat plants are called _____.
5. Humans, apes and monkeys belong to a species of mammals called _____.
6. Female mammals have _____ that produce milk.
7. Mammals that raise their young ones in pouches are called _____.
8. _____ are hunters who hunt animals illegally and sell their body parts.
9. _____ are the only mammals that can fly.
10. The waste of mammals is used as _____ that improves the quality of the soil.
11. Mammals have five _____ that tell them what is happening in the world around them.
12. Some mammals have horns, claws and _____.
13. The woolly mammoth is a mammal that became _____ during the Ice Age.
14. Mammals swallow food and chew it before it gets into the _____ system.
15. The _____ allows a mammal to walk.
16. Kangaroos hop around and use their _____ for balancing.
17. Bats have a poorly developed sense of _____.
18. _____, like humans, are mammals that eat plants and meat.
19. Mammals _____ when male sperm connects with a female egg.
20. Many mammals _____ to other places at different times of the year.

6

Crossword 1



Across

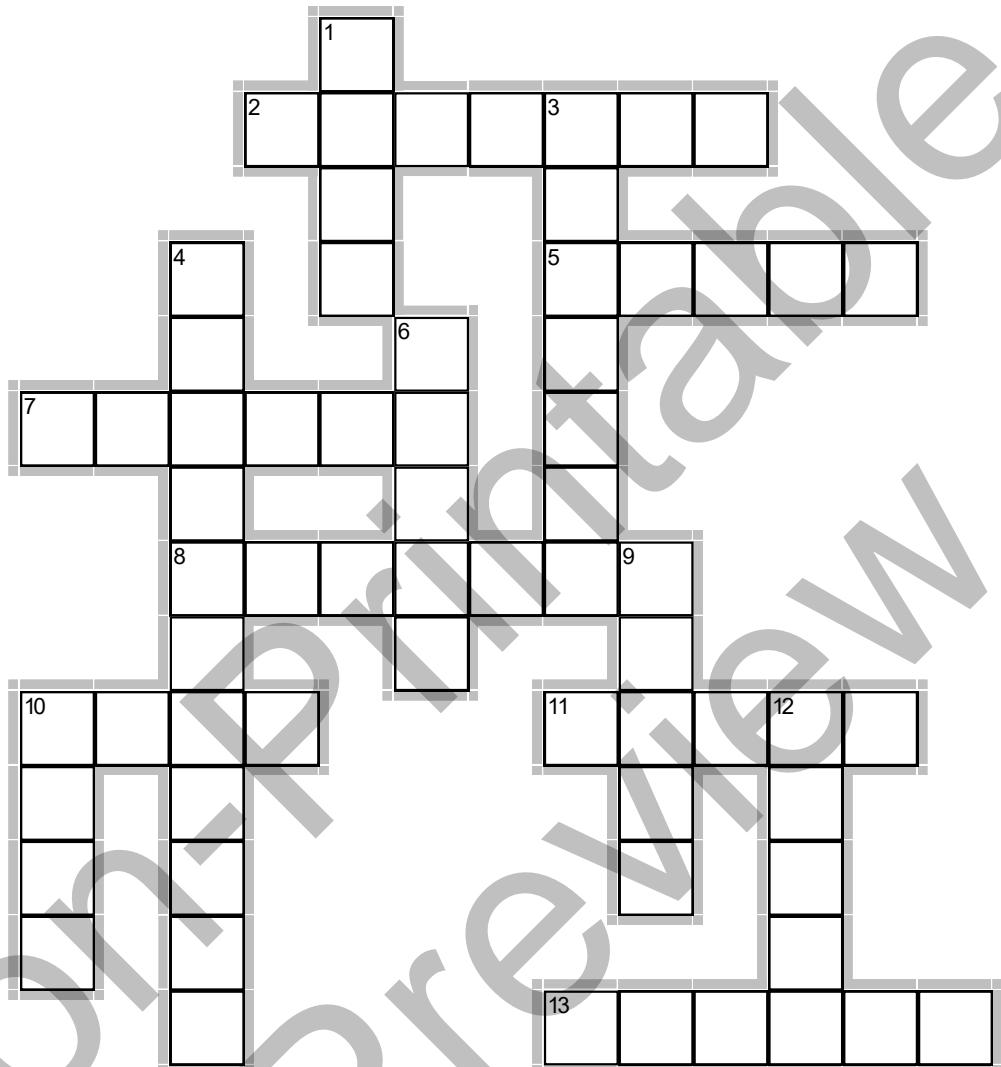
- pet with whiskers
- flying mammal that is active at night
- North American animal that looks like a rat and lives under ground
- largest sea mammal
- largest land mammal
- small animal with furry skin that climbs in trees and eats nuts
- animal that looks like a horse with black and white stripes
- primate with a long tail that can hang around in trees

Down

- animal with a long nose that eats insects
- animal that only eats bamboo
- large strong animal with hoofs
- large white mammal that lives in Arctic regions (2 words)
- large wild animal with horns and thin legs that can run very fast
- Australian animal that moves around by jumping and that carries babies in its pouch
- animal that produces a strong bad smell when attacked

7

Crossword 2



Across

2. flat part of the body of some sea animals that is used for swimming
5. hard smooth yellow material made from elephant teeth
7. tall tropical plant with hollow stems
8. group of plants or animals that are alike and can produce young ones
10. long thin part that sticks out of the back of an animal
11. natural power, like seeing or hearing
13. to change food that you have eaten into substances that the body can use

Down

1. sharp, curved nail of an animal
3. a member of a group of animals that include humans and monkeys
4. to train an animal so that it can work for you or become a pet
6. pocket of skin
9. drops of salty liquid come through your skin because it is hot or you are doing a lot of exercise
10. long curved tooth of an elephant
12. the row of bones down the centre of your back

8

Find 12 words about mammals in the grid below.

W	H	R	Q	N	I	M	M	U	F	C	Z
Q	E	E	C	A	T	B	A	T	W	Z	K
H	D	I	J	H	I	E	M	K	H	T	I
R	G	N	P	F	E	L	M	A	M	X	V
A	E	D	L	I	V	E	O	N	G	U	G
D	H	E	A	T	G	M	T	G	O	A	C
E	O	E	T	P	C	G	H	A	P	M	S
N	G	R	Y	D	E	K	T	R	H	G	O
P	I	O	P	A	N	D	A	O	E	C	T
W	N	V	U	F	R	E	B	O	R	L	R
U	K	H	S	E	A	L	S	M	D	M	K
W	H	A	L	E	E	F	G	X	U	B	V

9

Complete the text by filling in the missing words from the box.

Mammals are animals that feed their young ones with (1) _____. They live in all regions of the world. Mammals are different from other creatures in many ways. They have (2) _____ or hair-like skin and their body temperature always stays the same. Mammals, especially (3) _____, have a (4) _____ that is well-developed. They protect their babies and prepare them for future life.

Through the ages, many mammals have been (5) _____. Some are kept as pets, others are used to doing heavy work, like ploughing the fields or transporting goods. Some mammals are hunted by (6) _____ who sell their valuable body parts.

Female mammals carry babies in their bodies until they are born. After birth, (7) _____ produce milk to feed the small ones. In some cases, newly born mammals can walk or run alone shortly after birth.

Plant-eating mammals, or (8) _____, have a complicated digestive system with long (9) _____. Meat-eaters do not chew so much. The food passes through their body more quickly.

Mammals have a widely developed range of (10) _____. Bats, for example, use their hearing sense to find their way around. Humans and apes can see very well. Cats have (11) _____ with which they feel through darkness.

Marsupials are Australian mammals that carry their babies in (12) _____ in their skin until they are ready to live alone. Kangaroos and (13) _____ belong to this group. Only few mammals lay eggs, from which babies (14) _____. The (15) _____ and echidna belong to this group.

Some mammals, like squirrels, (16) _____ during the cold part of the year because they cannot get enough food during the wintertime. Others (17) _____ to other areas in order to survive. Arctic whales, for example, travel to the warm waters of the Californian coast to have babies, because they would not be able to (18) _____ in the cold waters of the north.

The first mammals appeared during the Mesozoic era. They were small at first. After the (19) _____ dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago mammals became bigger and bigger and ruled the continents. During the Ice Age many mammals, like the (20) _____, became extinct.

milk
fur
primates
brain
domesticated
poachers
glands
herbivores
intestines
senses
whiskers
pouches
wombats
hatch
playtpus
hibernate
migrate
survive
dominant
mammoth

10**Choose the correct word or phrase for each blank.**

Why mammals stopped growing

After the age of dinosaurs had ended about 65 million years ago mammals became the largest animals to (1) _____ the earth. Rhinos and elephants however were much larger than they are today. Huge mammals weighed almost 17 tons. The biggest mammal of our (2) _____, the African elephant, by comparison, weighs only about 6.5 tons.

When dinosaurs were on earth mammals were small (3) _____ that stayed the same in size for over 150 million years. The journal Science (4) _____ that after dinosaurs had become (5) _____, mammals became larger and larger but then stopped growing.

In the 1990s, a French team (6) _____ prehistoric fossils in Baluchistan, the area between Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The fossils belonged to an extinct hornless rhinoceros, the Baluchitherium, which lived about 40 million years ago. It was 5 meters tall and had the (7) _____ of three elephants.

Scientists are not sure how mammals got that big. During the age of dinosaurs, they often had to fight for food and (8) _____ as food for the giant reptiles themselves. When the dinosaurs (9) _____ nobody was there to eat the leaves of trees and plants. For the first time, mammals had plenty of food to eat.

Why mammals stopped growing is still a (10) _____. One theory claims that continents became smaller and there wasn't enough land (11) _____. According to other experts, a colder climate led to the death of dinosaurs. Mammals grow best in cold weather because bigger animals can (12) _____ the heat better.

1	settle	travel	roam	walking
2	age	years	phase	stage
3	organisms	lives	individuals	creatures
4	explores	claims	calls	demands
5	extinct	exotic	died out	vanished
6	explained	invented	determined	discovered
7	growth	amount	range	size
8	helped	suffered	served	worked
9	disappeared	missing	wiped out	departed
10	legend	mystery	unknown	strange
11	capable	existing	available	presented
12	save	protect	support	conserve

Non-Printable
Preview