



OUTDOOR WILDLIFE AWARD



PROJECT: MAMMALS

GOALS

A. MAMMAL FACTS: Identify four different mammals and four characteristics of all mammals.

B. MAMMAL CHALLENGE: Complete one of three.

A. MAMMAL FACTS

Mammal Examples (Identify four.)

- raccoon, bear, elephant, panda, squirrel, fox, zebra, whale

Mammal Characteristics (Identify four.)

- have a backbone or spine
- produce milk to feed newborns
- are warm-blooded and have fur or hair
- use a set of lungs to breath air
- typically give birth to live young (some are in eggs or pouches)
- live in many places, included the ocean, underground, on land, and even in the air

ANIMAL SAFETY: Do not approach or feed wild animals—for your safety and the health of the animals. Use caution in any wilderness setting when wildlife is present.

B. MAMMAL CHALLENGE

Choose one of these options to discover about mammals. The checklist will help you get started.

Option 1—Mammal Presentation

Pick your favorite mammal in the entire world. It does not need to live in your area. Create a visual presentation using pictures, books, or facts to share. Show this to a friend or family member.

Mammal Checklist

- what they eat
- where they live
- what predators hunt them/what they hunt
- unusual defense mechanisms or hunting skills
- unique habits (parenting, eating, sleeping, or playing)
- size and average lifespan

FUN FACT: The largest mammal is the Blue Whale (more than 100 feet long). The smallest mammal is the Hog Nosed Bat (only 1.2 inches long).

FUN FACT: Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

Option 2—Mammal Observation

Visit a local park, preserve, or open field and complete the following tasks.

Find those mammals: Observe least 5 different mammals that live in your area. For each one, photograph or draw the creature and observe the area in order answer the following questions.

- Do you see a nearby “home” for this mammal? *Example:* A prairie dog hole in the ground
- Do you see food in the area this animal might likely eat?

Research those mammals: Go to your local library or the Internet and obtain information on your mammals. Use a field guide or on the Internet for common animals in your area. Use the *Option 1 Mammal Checklist* to get started.

Option 3—Mammal Story

Write a creative story about two mammals that are friends. In order to write about your mammals, you'll need to discover their habits and how they behave.

Idea Prompts: Be creative! These suggestions will help you start your story.

- Write about a predator and prey—two unlikely friends.
- Choose two top-of-the-food-chain mammals bragging about their hunting skills.
- Pick two mammals from the same region to experience an unusual adventure.
- If you have an idea, use your own!

Writing Tips:

- Plan the basics of what you will write.
- Research setting and habits of your subject.
- Introduce and describe your characters and describe them in more detail as the story unfolds.
- *Structure suggestion:* 1) Set the scene and the characters; 2) create an adventure, problem, or challenge for the characters; 3) at the end, write how the characters succeeded, overcame, or learned through their experience.
- Write a first draft.
- Rewrite it after your first draft is finished.
- Have someone else proofread.

FUN FACT: Spotted skunks do “handstands” before they spray.

FUN FACT: Pangolins, which look like a cross between a pinecone and an anteater, will curl into a ball and roll down a slope at high speeds to escape!

RESEARCH MORE

- animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals
- kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/mammals
- Your local library
- Complete the **Field Trip: Zoo** project to see mammals from all around the world.

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Mammals.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your WILDLIFE award)