

# Science \_ Grades 2-3

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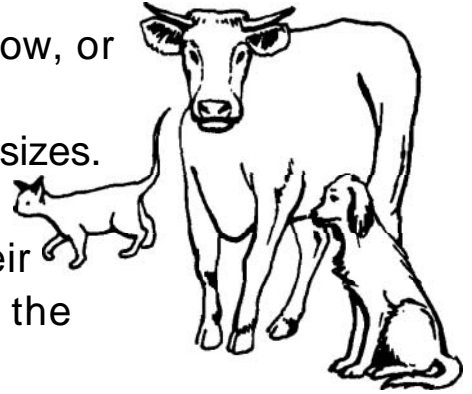
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# Mammals

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If you have ever seen a dog, cat, mouse, or cow, or looked at yourself in a mirror, you have seen a mammal. Mammals come in many shapes and sizes. All mammals, however, share special traits.

Mammals are the only animals that nurse their young. This **means** that the babies are fed with the mother's milk.



Mammals are often very caring parents. They protect and train their young. One or both parents care for the babies. The young learn mostly by imitating, or copying, their parents.

Mammals are warm-blooded. Their body temperature stays about the same even though the air temperature around them changes.

All mammals have hair at some **time** in their lives. In some whales, though, hair is present only before birth.

Finally, mammals have larger, more complex brains than other animals. They are thought to be the most intelligent of all animals.

Write the answer to each question.

1. What do mammals feed their newborn babies?

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2. Who cares for the baby mammals?

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3. Young mammals imitate their parents. What does imitate mean?

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4. Mammals are warm-blooded. What does this mean?

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5. Name two mammals.

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Try This! On the back of this paper, list five ways mammals differ from other creatures.

# Natural Habitats of Mammals

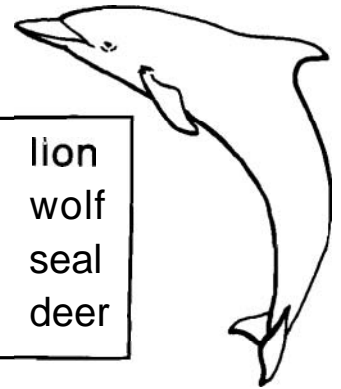
Animals live in **many** kinds of surroundings. The place where an animal lives in nature is called its natural habitat. There are many kinds of **natural** habitats. Each animal is best suited to the habitat in which it lives.

The **ocean** is the watery home of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and seals. Elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras live in grassy plains called **grasslands**. Mammals that live in the **forest** include wolves, bears, deer, and raccoons. Polar bears, arctic hares, caribou, and musk oxen live in the cold climate of the **polar regions**.

1. List each mammal under its natural habitat.



bear	zebra	caribou	lion
musk ox	dolphin	raccoon	wolf
porpoise	whale	polar bear	seal
elephant	arctic hare	giraffe	deer



**Ocean**

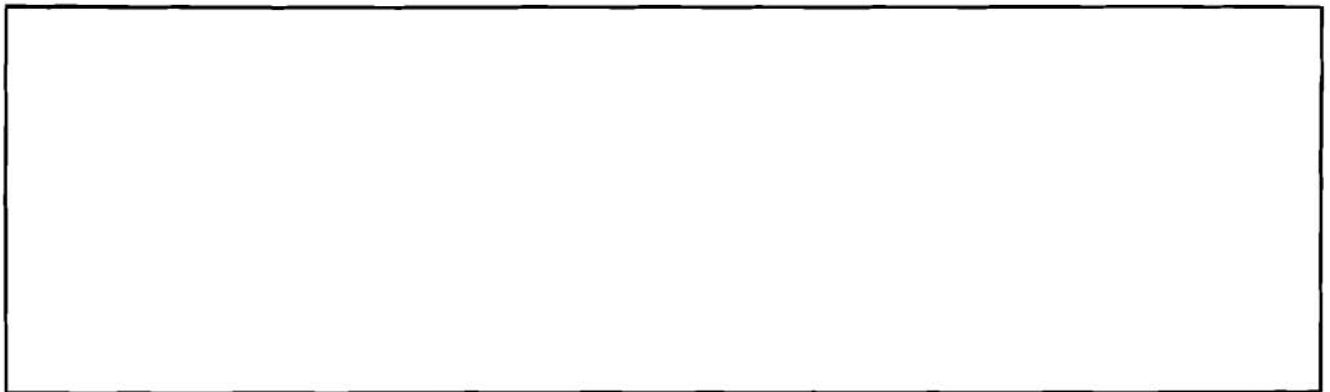
**Grasslands**

**Forest**

**Polar Regions**

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Draw a picture showing one of the above animals in its natural habitat.



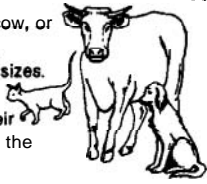
**Try This!** The desert is another habitat. List four animals that live there.

# Answer Key

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehension

## Mammals

If you have ever seen a dog, cat, mouse, or cow, or looked at yourself in a **mirror**, you have seen a mammal. Mammals come in many shapes and sizes. All mammals, however, share special **traits**. Mammals are the only animals that nurse their young. This means that the babies are fed with the mother's milk.



Mammals are often very caring parents. They protect and train their young. One or both parents care for the babies. The young learn mostly by imitating, or **copying**, their parents.

Mammals are warm-blooded. Their body temperature stays about the same even though the air temperature around them changes.

All mammals have hair at some time in their lives. In some whales, though, hair is present only before **birth**.

**Finally**, mammals have larger, more complex brains than other animals. They are thought to be the most intelligent of all **animals**.

Write the answer to each question.

- What do mammals feed their newborn babies?  
The babies are fed with the mother's milk.
- Who cares for the baby mammals?  
One or both parents care for the babies.
- Young mammals imitate their parents. What does imitate mean?  
Imitate means to copy.
- Mammals are warm-blooded. What does this mean? Their body temperature stays about the same even though the air temperature around them changes.
- Name two mammals. Answers vary.

Try This! On the back of this paper, list five ways mammals differ from other creatures.

Page 1


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Classification

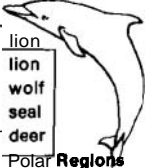
## Natural Habitats of Mammals

Animals live in many kinds of surroundings. The place where an animal lives in nature is called its natural habitat. There are many kinds of natural habitats. Each animal is best suited to the habitat in which it lives.

The ocean is the watery home of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and seals. Elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras live in grassy plains called **grasslands**. Mammals that live in the **forest** include wolves, bears, deer, and raccoons. Polar bears, arctic hares, caribou, and musk oxen live in the cold climate of the polar **regions**.

1. List each mammal under its natural habitat.

	bear	zebra	caribou	lion
	musk ox	dolphin	raccoon	lion
	porpoise	whale	polar bear	wolf
	elephant	arctic hare	giraffe	seal
				deer



Ocean      Grasslands      Forest      Polar Regions

whale      elephant      bear      musk ox  
dolphin      zebra      raccoon      arctic hare  
porpoise      giraffe      wolf      caribou  
seal      lion      deer      polar bear

2. Draw a picture showing one of the above animals in its natural habitat.


Pictures will vary.

Try This! The desert is another habitat. List four animals that live there.

Page 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehension

## The Blue Whale



The blue whale is the largest animal in the world. It is a sea mammal. It can grow up to 100 feet long and weigh as much as 100 tons.

Unlike most mammals which have four legs, the blue whale does not have any legs. Instead, it has two front flippers. It uses its flippers for steering and balancing while swimming.

The blue whale has no teeth. Instead, it has thin plates, called baleen, that hang from the roof of its mouth. The baleen looks like the teeth of a comb and acts as a strainer. When the blue whale eats, it opens its huge mouth and takes in large amounts of water and krill, a tiny shrimp-like animal. The water is then forced out through the baleen and the krill is left behind to be swallowed.

Write the answer to each question.

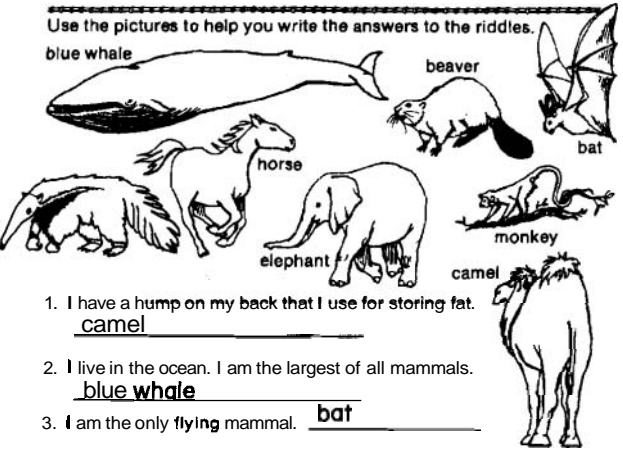
- What is the length and weight of a blue whale?  
A blue whale can be 100 feet long and can weigh as much as 100 tons.
- What does the blue whale use its flippers for while it is swimming?  
It uses its flippers for steering and balancing.
- What hangs from the roof of the blue whale's mouth?  
Thin plates called baleen hang from the roof of its mouth.
- What does the blue whale eat?  
The blue whale eats krill.
- Can blue whales chew food?  
No, blue whales cannot chew food.

Try This! Write five more facts about the blue whale. A library book or encyclopedia will help you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Identifying mammals

## Mammal Hunt

Use the pictures to help you write the answers to the riddles.



- I have a hump on my back that I use for storing fat.  
camel
- I live in the ocean. I am the largest of all mammals.  
blue whale
- I am the only flying mammal.  
bat
- I have a long snout and sticky tongue. I mainly eat ants.  
anteater
- I use my sharp front teeth to cut down trees. My broad, flat tail looks like a paddle.  
beaver
- I am the largest land mammal. I have a trunk and tusks.  
elephant
- My fingers help me hold things. I like to swing from tree branches.  
monkey
- I sometimes wear "shoes." I provide transportation and pleasure for many people.  
horse

Try This! Write a riddle about another mammal. Trade with a friend.