

Mammals have fur, are warm-blooded and feed new babies milk. Mammals include animals such as the whale, the kangaroo and humans. Within the mammal group there are many different families. For example, gorillas are members of the primate family. There are about 4,500 different types of mammal in the world.

Most mammal females give birth to live babies, rather than laying eggs. The baby grows inside the mother's body until it is born. All female mammals produce milk from their bodies that they feed to their babies; this feeding is called suckling. The milk is rich and helps babies to grow.

All mammals are hairy (some are much hairier than others) and most have hair, often called fur, all over their bodies. They are hairy to keep them warm.

Mammals are also warm-blooded, which means they can warm up and cool down their bodies to keep their temperature level. An elephant in a hot jungle is the same temperature as a polar bear in the snow.

Mammals come in many different shapes and sizes that suit their lifestyle.

- Some mammals, such as cats, have long legs to run with.
- The bat is the only mammal that can fly – it has wings.
- Sea mammals, such as dolphins, have flippers and strong tails to swim with.
- The mole has feet like spades, which are useful for burrowing.
- A platypus is different to most mammals because it lays eggs.

## Summarise

Summarise the text in less than **20 words**.

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**1. Name three characteristics of a mammal.**

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**2 marks**

**2. Name one mammal that is special. Explain why it is special.**

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**1 mark**

**3. What are a moles feet like? What does this help them do?**

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**2 marks**