About Mammals

There are over 4000 different types of mammals. Mammals are very diverse. There are mammals that live above ground, mammals that can fly, mammals that live below ground and mammals that live under water. Mammals can live in locations of both warm temperatures and cold temperatures. For example, camels can survive in the dry, hot desert and [polar bears](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-polar-bears.html) can live near the cold polar regions of the earth. The blue whale, which is a mammal, is the largest animal on earth. The bull elephant, which is also a mammal, is the largest animal living on land.

**Mammal Facts**

* Mammals are warm-blooded animals. Their body temperature remains about the same their entire lives.
* All mammals have hair, even [dolphins](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-dolphins.html) and [whales](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-whales.html) that live in the ocean.
* Most mammals are born live, not from eggs. There are two mammals that hatch from eggs, including the spiny anteater and the duckbilled platypus.
* Most mammals are helpless when they are babies. Adult mammals protect and help care for babies until they can survive on their own. The mammal most famous for caring for their babies is the mother kangaroo who carries their babies in their pouch until they are about one year old. Mammals like mice, only care for their young for about 1 month. Elephants care for their young for a long time, up to 10 years. How long do you think your parents will care for you?
* All mammal babies drink milk from their mothers.
* All mammals except ant eaters have teeth
* [Bats](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-bats.html) are the only mammals that can fly.
* [Cheetahs](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-cheetahs.html) are the fastest land animal and also mammals. The can run up to 70 mph. The fastest cheetah clocked in a zoo for the 100 meter dash is 5.95 seconds which is almost twice as fast as the fastest human recorded. To run this fast the cheetah has a stride length of nearly 22 feet. The long jump record for a human is just over 29 feet. The cheetah has the perfect body for speed and has enlarged lungs, nostrils and heart to be able to get enough oxygen to run fast.
* Orca (Killer) [whales](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-whales.html) are one of the fiercest hunters of all animals. They are known to attack whales and even polar bears. Orcas are also very smart and are featured in aquatic shows where they can show off their intelligence
* Koalas sleep the longest of any animal. They sleep 22 hours a day.
* [Dolphin](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-dolphins.html) and [whale](https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-whales.html) babies do not sleep the first month of their life