

Suzy's World

Mammal - What makes a mammal a mammal?

Fact

- A mammal is an animal that;
 - ✓ has a coat of some kind like hair, wool or fur
 - ✓ drinks milk from it's mother's mammary glands when it's a baby
 - ✓ is warm blooded and can control its own body temperature
 - ✓ has four limbs
 - ✓ has a skeleton
 - ✓ breathes air
- Some mammals break the rules a bit like the Australian Fruitbat, which can fly, and the Platypus which lays eggs.
- Some mammals live underwater too, like seals and whales, but they still need to come up for air

Do you know

- Human's are mammals.
- Lots of our pets are mammals too.
- The smallest mammal in the world is the Pygmy Shrew which only measures 4cm from its head to the beginning of its tail.
- The largest mammal is the Blue Whale which is 33 metres long
- There are over 4,000 different types of mammals

Experiments you can do

Compare mammals with mammals and make sure they follow the rules.

What makes us mammals do we follow the basic rules?

Do we have some kind of coat like wool, fur... or hair? Are we warm blooded, have four limbs, breathe air, have a skeleton and drink our mother's milk when we're babies?

Well, what about other mammals?

Other Investigations

Why isn't a bird a mammal? Or how about a fish?

Is a spider a mammal – if not why not?

What groups do these other animals come from?

What's an amphibian? And how about a reptile?

What do all reptiles have in common?

Use the mammal rules (in the fact section) and design a brand new mammal.