



Pre-reading work

Match the words to their closest synonym.

produce

burrowing

strong

suckling

primate

rich

tunnelling

feeding

creamy

make

powerful

mammal group including
monkeys, apes and humans

Skimming and scanning for information

Find the words **above** in the text below and **highlight** them.

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**.

1. Name three characteristics of a mammal.

☐

2 marks

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

☐

1 mark

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

☐

2 marks

4. Tick the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

True False

There are 4,500 different types of mammal.

☐☐

Humans are not mammals.

☐☐

Elephants and polar bears are the same temperature.

☐☐☐

3 marks

5. What helps sea mammals swim?

☐

1 mark

6. Do you think lizards are mammals? Explain how you know using the text to help you.

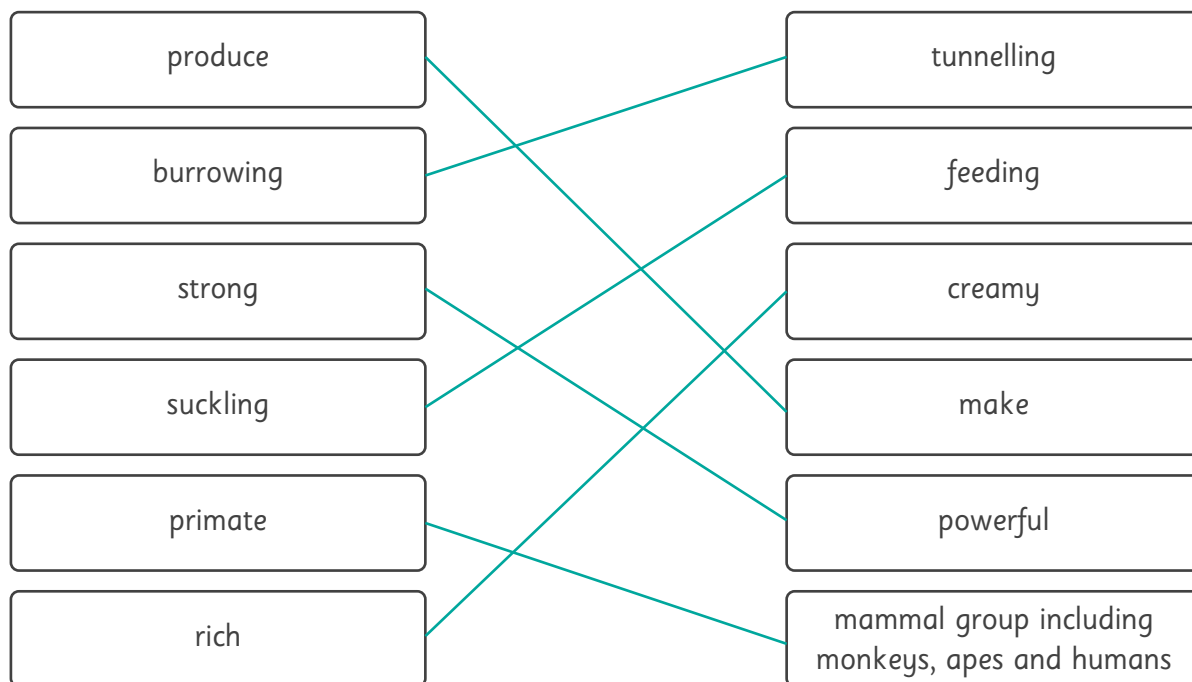
☐

2 marks



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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.

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- 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**.

There are lots of different mammals. They all have the same features.

1. Name three characteristics of a mammal.

Any three of the following:
They have fur (or hair).
They are warm-blooded.
They feed babies milk.
They give birth to live young.
The females produce milk.

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

One of the following:
The bat because it is the only mammal that can fly.
A platypus because it lays eggs.

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

They are like spades which help it burrow or dig.

4. Tick the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
There are 4,500 different types of mammal.	☒	☐
Humans are not mammals.	☐	☒
Elephants and polar bears are the same temperature.	☒	☐

5. What helps sea mammals swim?

They have flippers and long tails.

6. Do you think lizards are mammals? Explain how you know using the text to help you.

No.
Possible explanations:
because most mammals do not lay eggs and lizards lay eggs.
because mammals have hair or fur and lizards do not.
because mammals are warm-blooded and lizards are cold-blooded.