

Questions for life of mammals. First episode. A winning design. [ANSWER KEY](#)

1. What do all mammals have in common?

All mammals have hair and mammary glands and are endotherms.

2. What kinds of habitats do mammals occupy?

Mammals occupy terrestrial, aquatic, marine and atmospheric habitats, including forests, oceans, lakes, grasslands, deserts

3. What features do mammals share with reptiles?

Mammals and reptiles both have an amniotic egg. A necessity for living on land, instead of in water.

4. What is a monotreme? What are the features of a monotreme? Where are monotremes found?

A monotreme is an egg-laying mammal. There are two: echidna and platypus. They lay eggs externally and feed the offspring milk exuded directly onto the skin. They are found in Australia and South America.

5. What is the reproductive strategy of an echidna?

The echidna lays an egg which is hidden in her fur.

6. Describe the characteristics of an echidna.

The echidna has long spines (modified hair) and rolls up in a ball when threatened. It has a long sticky tongue with which it catches termites. It searches through old logs for termites. They have good hearing and eyesight, and very good sense of smell.

7. How does the echidna care for its young?

After the egg hatches carries the infant around in a pouch for about 50 days, until it develops spines, and then she puts it in a burrow, where it stays for seven months.

8. Describe a platypus. What does it feed on?

The platypus is a small, furry mammal with legs and webbed feet splayed to the side. It has a rubbery bill like a duck's. The platypus feeds on small invertebrates.

9. How does the platypus care for its young?

The platypus lays an egg which hatches in a burrow, then feeds it with milk from her glands, which oozes through the skin.

10. What is a marsupial? Where are marsupials found?

A marsupial is a mammal found mostly in Australia and South America, which has a pouch in which it raises its young.

11. What is the reproductive strategy of a marsupial?

An egg hatches within the mother's womb, and the small fetus climbs out and up to the mother's pouch where it attaches to a nipple and grows there for nine months.

12. Name some examples of marsupials found in Australia.

Kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies. Koalas, wombats, numbats, mountain pygmy possum, red kangaroos, grey kangaroos.

13. Give some examples of marsupials found in South America.

Woolly opossum, yapok.

14. When did marsupials appear? Why only in Australia and South America?

Marsupials first appeared about 100 million years ago. They probably evolved in South America first and spread to Australia when it was still attached to the super continent.

15. What is the advantage of being a placental mammal?

The advantage of having a placenta, is to provide nutrients to young while they are protected within the body of the mother. Then the offspring are better able to defend themselves when they are born.