

# The World of Mammals – Word List

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- **ages** = a very long time
- **anteater** = an animal that has a very long nose and eats insects
- **apart** = into pieces
- **Arctic** = area around the North Pole
- **attach** = connect
- **attack** = here: when an animal wants to fight against others
- **balance** = to keep steady and not fall over
- **bamboo** = tall tropical plant with hollow stems
- **beat** = here: move
- **birth** = being born
- **blend in** = to have the same colour
- **brain** = organ inside your head that controls the way you feel, think and move
- **break down** = make into very small parts
- **breathe** = take in air through your lungs
- **breeding season** = time during which animals mate in order to have babies
- **chamber** = here: separate part
- **chew** = to bite food many times before you swallow it
- **claim** = here: show that something belongs to them
- **claw** = the sharp, curved nail of an animal
- **coast** = where land meets the sea
- **coat** = here: skin, fur
- **constant** = always
- **deer** = a large wild animal that can run very fast ; it eats grass and has horns
- **detect** = find, locate
- **develop** = grow
- **digest** = to change food that you have eaten into substances the body can use
- **digestive system** = the way food passes through your body
- **domesticate** = to train an animal so that it can work for people or be a pet
- **dominant** = number one
- **duck-billed** = with a mouth like a duck
- **enable** = to make something possible
- **enemy** = person or animal that hates you and wants to fight against you
- **escape** = get away in a dangerous situation
- **evolve** = develop. grow
- **exotic** = unusual, different
- **extinct** = die out
- **feature** = quality , characteristics
- **feed** = to give food to ...
- **female** = belonging to the sex that can lay eggs or give birth to babies
- **fertilize** = here: to make a new animal grow
- **fertilizer** = substance that is put on the soil to make plants grow
- **flesh** = meat
- **flipper** = flat part of the body of some sea animals that is used for swimming
- **fur** = thick, soft hair that covers the bodies of animals
- **gland** = organ of the body that produces material that the body needs , like hormones, sweat or milk
- **goods** = products of everyday life
- **gopher** = North and Central American animal, like a large rat, that lives in holes in the ground
- **grasp** = get hold of something with your hand
- **guinea pig** = small furry animal with short ears and no tail; it is often kept as a pet
- **harmful** = dangerous
- **hatch** = the egg breaks and a young animal comes out
- **hibernate** = to sleep during the whole winter
- **highly developed** = here: very strong and powerful
- **hippopotamus** = large grey African animal with a big head and mouth that lives near the water
- **hoof** = hard foot of a cow , horse or camel
- **hop** = jump
- **hormone** = chemical substance that the body produces; it influences how you grow and develop
- **human beings, humans** = people
- **Ice Age** = one of the long periods of time thousands of years ago when ice covered a large part of the northern continents
- **identify** = recognise, find
- **illegally** = against the law
- **improve** = to make better
- **including** = also
- **intestine** = long tube through which food passes after it leaves your stomach
- **ivory** = the hard, smooth, yellow material from the tusks of elephants
- **keep off** = here: defend themselves from ...
- **limb** = arm or leg
- **liquid** = something watery
- **mark** = show the position of something

- **marsupial** = animal that carries its baby in a pocket of skin
- **mate** = to have sex in order to produce babies
- **Mesozoic period** = the geologic middle ages of the earth
- **migrate** = to travel regularly to another part of the world
- **mole** = small, dark, furry animal that is almost blind; moles usually live underground
- **most popular** = best known
- **navigate** = travel or move around something
- **nearly** = almost
- **nurse** = feed with milk
- **oxygen** = gas that has no colour or smell and which we need to breathe
- **platypus** = a small, furry animal that has a mouth and feet like a duck
- **plough** = turn over the earth so that seeds can be planted
- **poacher** = someone who catches or shoots animals illegally
- **pouch** = pocket of skin
- **prefer** = like
- **pregnancy** = when a female has a baby growing inside her
- **prevent** = stop
- **prey** = victim, target ; the animals that other animals want to eat
- **primate** = member of a group of animals that includes humans and monkeys
- **protect** = defend against enemies
- **raise** = bring up
- **reindeer** = a large deer with long horns that lives in northern, colder areas
- **rely** = depend on, need
- **reproduce** = to have babies
- **reptile** = animal like a snake or lizard, whose body temperature changes depending on the temperature around it
- **rodent** = small animal that has long, sharp front teeth, like a rat
- **rule** = here: to be dominant; to have power over others
- **scarce** = rare , not enough
- **seal** = a large sea animal that eats fish and lives around the coast
- **search** = look for
- **sense of hearing** = the way an animal can hear
- **senses** = natural powers
- **share** = here: use with another animal
- **sight** = vision, ability to see
- **skeleton** = all the bones that make up the structure of a person or animal
- **skull** = bones of a person's or animal's head
- **skunk** = a black and white North American animal that produces a strong, bad smell when it is attacked
- **snout** = long nose of an animal
- **soil** = top layer of the earth on which plants grow
- **species** = group of animals or plants that are alike and can produce young ones
- **sperm** = a cell of a man or male animal that can produce new life
- **spine** = the row of bones down the centre of your back
- **spray** = a stream of very small drops
- **spread** = to move from one place to another
- **squirrel** = small animal with furry skin that climbs trees and eats nuts
- **stretch** = to go from one place to another
- **substance** = material
- **surroundings** = the world around them
- **survive** = here: stay alive
- **sweat** = drops of salty liquid that come through your skin because it is hot, or you are doing exercise
- **tail** = part that sticks out of the back of an animal
- **territories** = land
- **throat** = the passage from your mouth to the tubes that go to your stomach
- **tiny** = very small
- **tissue** = the material that forms cells
- **trot** = to move quickly with each front leg moving at the same time as one of the back legs
- **tusk** = long curved tooth of an elephant
- **upside down** = with the top at the bottom and the bottom at the top
- **useful** = helpful
- **waste** = the material that animals leave behind after they digest food
- **weak** = not strong
- **weed** = wild plant that prevents crops or garden flowers from growing the right way
- **well-developed** = very complex and something that works well
- **whale** = very large mammal that swims in the sea
- **whisker** = long hair that grows near the mouth of a cat or mouse