

Title: Draw a Mammal

Objective: Draw a mammal; review the characteristics of mammals

Time: 15-20 minutes

Materials Needed: Journal or paper, colored pencils, markers or crayons

Interdisciplinary Lesson

Theme: Mammals

Topic: Heredity

Suggested Grade Level: K-2

Indoors or Outdoors: Either

Directions:

1. Write a directive on the whiteboard or chart tablet to draw a mammal.
2. Instruct students to label the picture they drew of a mammal with its common name. Examples include: Cat, Lion, Dog, Wolf, Bear, Squirrel, Chipmunk, Otter, etc.
3. Instruct students to write two or three features that explain why the animal is a mammal.
4. Ask students to share the mammal they drew noting the features of the animal that make it a mammal.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes a mammal a mammal? How do you know that?
2. Can you think of a mammal that is not on the chart?
3. How could you classify the mammal you drew into a sub group (families of mammals: cat, dog, bear, rodent, weasel, etc.)? Explain your thinking.

Science and Engineering Practices:

1. Asking questions (science); 7. Engaging in argument from evidence.

Crosscutting Concepts:

6. Structure and function.

Disciplinary Core Idea:

Life Sciences: LS 3: Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits.

Background Information:

- Classifying is grouping things that have similar characteristics. One group of vertebrate animals is called mammals.
- Mammals are warm-blooded, have hair, give live birth (do not lay eggs), and feed babies milk.
- There are about 4,000 kinds of mammals.
- A baby mammal closely resembles, but may not be identical, to its parents.

Additional Resources

- *Marvelous Mammals* (Science Vocabulary Readers) by Lydia Carlin
- *What If You Had Animal Hair?* by Sandra Markle

Correlates with:

Greeting - Where's My Baby? (p. 38)

Activity - Guess the Mammal (p. 47)