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# Discovery


*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# MARVELOUS MAMMALS

CALEB COLLEY




In the animal kingdom, no group is more impressive than the mammals. Mammals range in size from the blue whale to the tiny shrew, but all mammals share four characteristics: (1) Females produce milk and nurse their young, (2) Hair, (3) Three middle-ear bones, and (4) Warm-bloodedness. Most mammals also give live birth as opposed to laying eggs. Many people are more familiar with mammals than with members of any other class of animals, because mammals are found all over the world. Some mammals, like dogs and cats, are kept as pets.

There are about 5,000 species of mammals, and these include animals that have remarkable characteristics and do amazing things. Consider just a few: The cheetah is the fastest land animal, reaching speeds of 71 miles per hour. The hero shrew has the strongest backbone of any animal, size-for-size. This shrew's backbone accounts for four percent of its total weight, compared to about one percent in other small mammals. Carolus

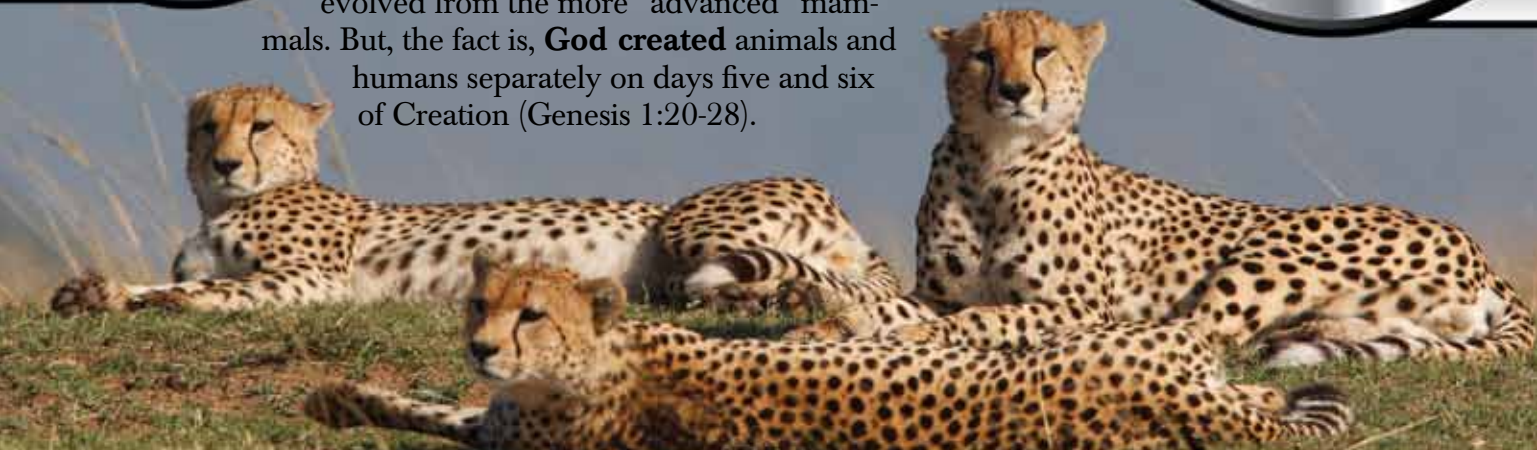
Linnaeus was the first to categorize whales as mammals, but scientists have been observing mammalian characteristics of whales and dolphins since at least the ancient Greeks (Aristotle wrote about mammals, although he did not categorize them exactly as we do today).

Marsupials are mammals with pouches for carrying their newborn offspring, and many of them are found in Australia. Kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, and wombats are marsupials (the red kangaroo is the biggest marsupial). The Tasmanian "devil," the largest meat-eating marsupial in Australia, got its name because of the creepy growls it makes as it fights other "devils" for food.

The only marsupial that lives naturally in the United States is the opossum.



Taxonomists call human beings mammals, because we have all four main characteristics that mammalian animals have. This does not mean, however, that we are related to the animals by evolutionary ancestry. Evolutionists teach that the first mammals evolved around 200 million years ago, and that humans eventually evolved from the more "advanced" mammals. But, the fact is, **God created** animals and humans separately on days five and six of Creation (Genesis 1:20-28).



# MAMMALS, DINOSAURS, AND THE FOSSIL RECORD

ERIC LYONS

Evolutionists have long taught that mammals evolved millions of years after the reptiles. And, once mammals came on to the scene, allegedly millions of years after the dinosaurs supposedly evolved, all the mammals were "small, mostly about mouse-sized, and rare." In fact, we are told that for the first 150 million years of their existence, mammals "were **never** able to get beyond little ratlike things."

But, as so often is the case, when more evidence is gathered, evolutionary "facts" become outright errors. Four years ago, the fossils of a mammal "20 times larger" than what evolutionists believed to be possible were reported to be in the same fossil beds as the dinosaurs. Another fossilized mammal discovered in the same area actually had the remains of a five-inch dinosaur **in its stomach**.

What does this prove? Only that mammals **much larger** than "little ratlike things" not only lived with dinosaurs, but even ate some of them for breakfast.

One year after scientists reported about the dinosaur-eating mammal, another mammal fossil find was revealed. This time it was of a furry beaver-like animal. What was so special about this mammal? Evolutionists confessed that the animal lived long before they previously thought such swimming mammals lived—before many of the dinosaurs lived.

For about 100 years, science textbooks, museum exhibits, and many movies have all taught that the mammals which lived with dinosaurs were small, about the size of a shrew. Yet, just a few fossil discoveries in the last four years have overturned all that evolutionary scientists formerly thought about mammals and dinosaurs.

Evolutionists are wrong about the origins and development of mammals. Mammals did not evolve from reptiles, and mammals certainly were not separated in time from the reptiles by many millions of years. As the Bible teaches and as these few fossil discoveries have shown, the theory of evolution is based on unproven assumptions, incorrect calculations, and extremely exaggerated periods of millions of years. The truth is, God created mammals, reptiles, and all other animals only a few thousand years ago on days five and six of Creation.





# Marine Mammals

DAVE MILLER

There are so many kinds of animals on Earth. And while they have many similarities, they have endless differences. All that variation points to the Grand Designer, the God of the Bible. It does **not** point to mindless evolution. One category of mammals is those that live in water, which includes whales, dolphins, seals, and others—some 90 species of animals. Wow! And they are amazing!

Take, for instance, the dolphin. There are 31 species of true dolphins—about 21 of these species are found in the waters around Australia. Dolphins are actually small whales. Most have the usual streamlined shape with a pointed beak—perfectly designed to move through the water. The prominent dorsal fin on the back gives stability, the flippers assist in balance and direction, and the tail flukes provide driving power—all evidence of intelligent design. God equipped the dolphin with a blowhole that has to be deliberately opened by muscles when the dolphin

surfaces to catch its breath. It gives a small puff of air just before it surfaces in order to clear the water away before it takes another breath. It can exchange most of its lungs' contents during a single breath—very efficient for living in water. What's more, God made sure that dolphins can see well **both** in and out of the water. Dolphins use sounds to communicate with each other, which scientists think is a complex form of language. Each dolphin has its own personal whistle that distinguishes it from others. Dolphins can hear sounds as high as 150 kilohertz (that's high!). They use "echo location," a kind of sonar, to plot their movement through the water, making clicking noises with the blow hole and then receiving echoes. Every part of the dolphin was superbly designed on purpose by God!

Then there is the manatee—a grayish-brown, walrus-like animal that weighs between 800-1,200 pounds! Manatees have a round, flattened tail, and two front flippers. The flippers are used in steering while swimming, as well as for holding food. Their specially-designed tails and flippers make manatees expert swimmers, enabling them to cover over 520 miles, each way, during their migrations. One manatee swam 143 miles in only four days! While underwater, flaps

close over their nostrils, to prevent water from interfering with breathing. God, not evolution, designed that feature, too!

Have you ever heard of a dugong [DOO-gawng]? What an amazing mammal! Since God made them to graze on a wide range of sea grasses, some people call them "sea cows." We could even think of them as the lawnmowers of the sea! God specially designed the mouth of the dugong to point downward to allow it to feed off the sea bottom even when its body is in a horizontal position. Its paddle-like forelimbs help it to swim, while its fluked tail allows locomotion through vertical movement. Dugongs have most of their babies when sea grass is abundant. New babies soon start munching on the sea grass even while they suckle. Since dugongs have very few natural predators, God made them to swim at a very slow pace (a little over three miles per hour). They have short hair, which allows them to easily sense their environment by touch. Dugongs experience pachyostosis, which means their ribs and other long bones are very solid and contain little or no marrow. Among the densest in the animal kingdom, these heavy bones are thought to act as a ballast (weight) to help keep dugongs suspended slightly below the water's surface.

God's designs in His creatures are amazing! And guess what? One version of the Bible actually refers to the dugong! It is called the "sea cow" in Exodus 25:5; 26:14; and Numbers 4:6ff. (NIV).

DUGONG



These and all the other water mammals on Earth have ingenious body parts that make them perfectly designed to live life as a water mammal. Evolutionists want us to believe that millions of years ago, a small fox-like land animal began spending time in shallow water catching fish. They claim that in time, its offspring preferred water, sprouted flippers, developed a fluke tail, and voila!, a water mammal! But such thinking is silly and foolish. The Bible tells us what **really** happened:

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures..." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind.... And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas" (Genesis 1:20-22).

DOLPHINS

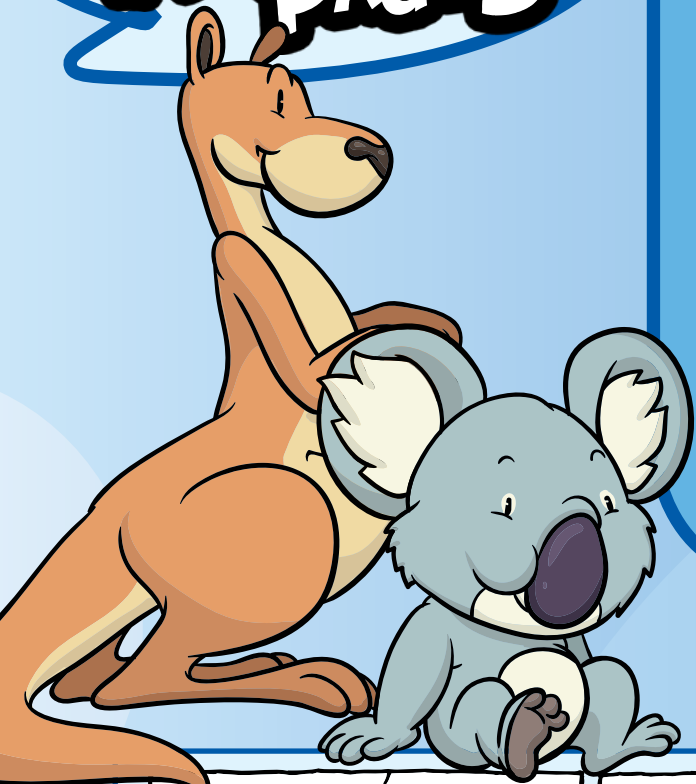


MANATEE





# ACTIVITY PAGES



1. — A CAT IS A REPTILE.
2. — MOST MAMMALS LAY EGGS.
3. — MAMMALS RARELY GROW HAIR.
4. — GOD MADE ALL MAMMALS ON DAY SIX OF CREATION.
5. — DINOSAURS WERE THE LARGEST MAMMALS.
6. — MAMMALS EVOLVED FROM REPTILES 200 MILLION YEARS AGO.
7. — MARINE MAMMALS EVOLVED FROM A FOX-LIKE LAND ANIMAL.
8. — GOD MADE MAMMALS BOTH ON DAY FIVE AND ON DAY SIX OF CREATION.

## TRUE OR FALSE



Dear Digger Doug,

My brother read somewhere that a blue whale can fit an elephant on its tongue. I couldn't really believe it. Is it true?

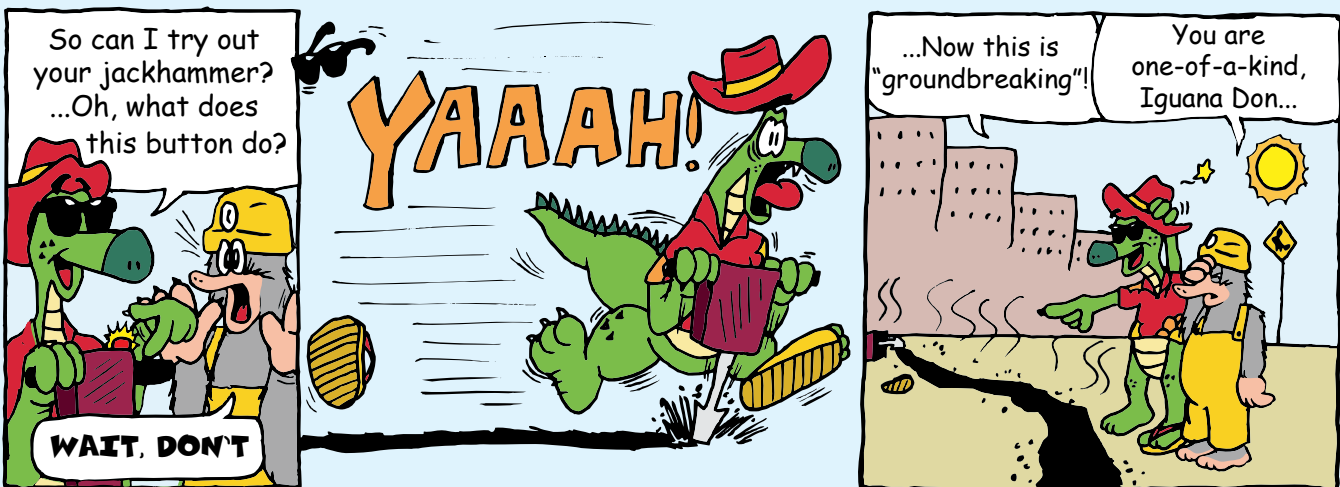
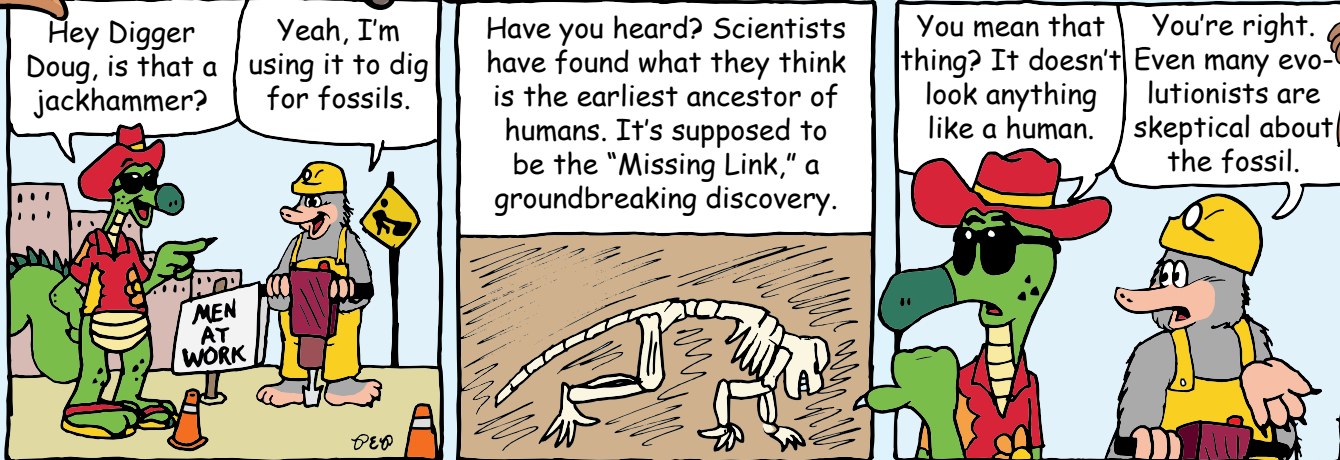
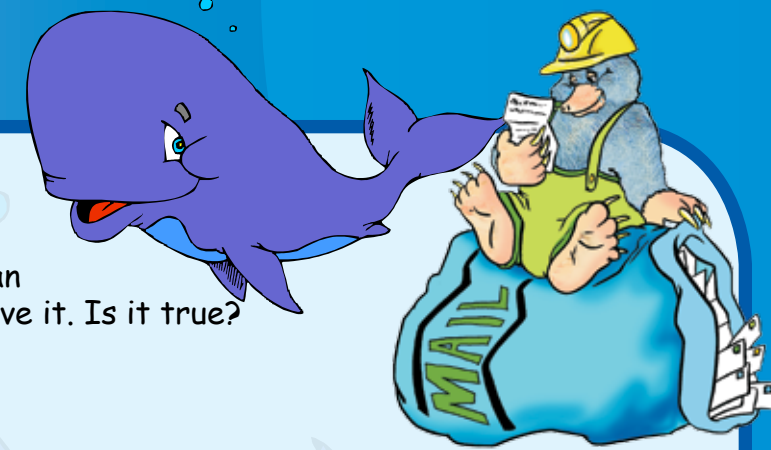
—Faith, Alberta, Canada

Dear Faith,

I am glad to hear from you, and to answer this fine question. Blue whales are the largest mammals (you already know a lot about mammals from reading this issue of *Discovery*), and also the largest animals on Earth. A blue whale can weigh 200 tons, and take in 50 tons of water in one gulp. The blue whale can eat about four tons of krill (tiny, shrimp-like ocean animals) in a day. The blue whale is famous for its size.

The blue whale does not eat elephants, but it is interesting to think about whether the surface of the blue whale's tongue is big enough so that an elephant could stand on it. The tongue of the blue whale certainly can weigh as much as a young elephant. Depending on the particular whale and elephant, an adult elephant could fit on the whale's tongue. Or, you and about 50 friends could stand on the blue whale's tongue. However, I don't recommend you try this—especially if the whale is still alive!

The blue whale is a reminder of the majesty of God's creation, and His special planning for the balance we see in ocean life.



## NAME THAT MAMMAL

## ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

1. — HAS THE STRONGEST BACKBONE OF ANY MAMMAL, SIZE-FOR-SIZE
2. — THE ONLY MAMMAL CAPABLE OF TRUE FLIGHT
3. — THE WORLD'S LARGEST MAMMAL
4. — THE ONLY MARSUPIAL MAMMAL THAT LIVES NATURALLY IN THE UNITED STATES
5. — GRAYISH-BROWN MAMMAL WITH A ROUND, FLATTENED TAIL, AND TWO FRONT FLIPPERS
6. — SEA COW
7. — THE LARGEST MARSUPIAL MAMMAL
8. — THE FASTEST LAND ANIMAL

1. Give four characteristics of mammals.
2. Write down why you believe that mammals were created by God and did not evolve by time and chance over millions of years.

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A. Red kangaroo | E. Cheetah    |
| B. Manatee      | F. Opossum    |
| C. Dugong       | G. Blue whale |
| D. Hero shrew   | H. Bat        |







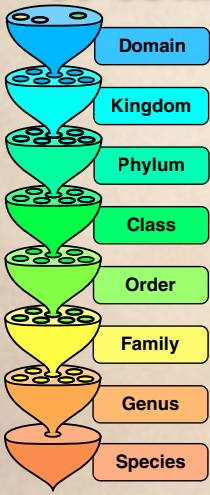
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# DIFFERENT WAYS OF SORTING ANIMALS



Eric Lyons

Everyone has a way of sorting things. You might sort your shirts in one drawer and your pants in another. Or, you might have them all mixed up in different drawers. You might arrange your clothes in your closet by kind, color, or size. It may be that you arrange the books on your desk by author, subject, or title. You might also sort volumes by the year the books were published or the year that you read the books. The fact is, there are all kinds of ways of sorting things, including sorting animals.

Most people today categorize animals into one of five major groups: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. But the way we usually sort animals is not the only way to classify animals. Consider the way that God categorized animals in Scripture. In the very first chapter of the Bible, God divided animals into very basic, natural groups. Instead of creating

all of the mammals on one day and all of the reptiles on another, He made animals that swim and fly on day five and land animals on day six (Genesis 1:20-23,24-25). Thus, in addition to the fish He made on day five, He created other water-living creatures, including mammals, like dolphins, and reptiles, such as plesiosaurs. What's more, birds were not the only flying things He made on day five. On this day, God also made the only flying mammal alive today (the bat), as well as all of the extinct flying reptiles (such as *Pteranodon* and *Pterodactyl*).

The book of Leviticus expands on God's classification of animals. In chapter 11, God instructed the Israelites about "clean" and "unclean" animals. As He listed these animals, God divided the creatures into land animals, water animals, and flying things (including birds, bats, and flying insects). As at Creation, God did not divide animals into mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Rather, God categorized animals in a very easy to understand, natural way. He sorted animals more according to the animals' **locomotion** (do they fly, swim, or walk) and **environment** (do they inhabit the air, water, or land) instead of whether or not they have hair, lay eggs, or nurse their young.

Just remember, although it can be effective to learn how we classify animals today, the Bible's classification of animals is also very logical. Best of all, it is easy to remember.

Kingdom: Animalia  
 Phylum: Chordata  
 Class: Mammalia  
 Order: Diprotodontia  
 Family: Macropodidae



## ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-F; 4-F; 5-F; 6-F; 7-F; 8-T; NAME THAT MAMMAL: 1. D (Horo shrew); 2. H (Bat); 3. G (Blue whale); 4. F (Opossum); 5. B (Manatee); 6. C (Dugong); 7. A (Red kangaroo); 8. E (Cheetah).

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