

Explore the Museum Like a Scientist!

Mammals



For Families and Groups with Young Visitors

These activities are designed to spark your curiosity and encourage you to think like a scientist. When scientists are curious they: **look closely, ask questions, compare, collect information, and test ideas.**

You are a zoologist exploring animals in the *Cabinet of Curiosities* exhibit. Let's look at mammals.

A **mammal** is an animal that:

- is warm-blooded
- feeds milk to its babies
- has hair or fur on its body at some time in its life

How many different mammals can you find in the exhibit?

When you find the **beaver**...

- Compare your hand to the beaver's back foot. *How is your hand different from the beaver's?*
- Look at the beaver's teeth. *How are they different from yours?*



When you find the **grey squirrel**...

- *Look at the squirrel's tail. Is it skinny or fluffy?*
- The squirrel's tail is used in many ways. It helps the squirrel with balance in jumping, climbing, and running, or act as a parachute in breaking an unexpected fall. Squirrels also use their tails for warmth in cold weather and use the motion of their tails to communicate when they feel threatened or excited.
- *Look around the exhibit. What types of tails do you see? How do you think other animals use their tails?*



When you find the **bat**...

- Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly (without an airplane!)
- Bats have the best hearing of all land mammals. They often have huge ears compared to the rest of their bodies. They rely on sound to help them hunt at night. *How big are your ears? How good is your hearing?*



*Where do you find **YOU** in this exhibit? Are you a mammal?*