

L.O. To describe the life-cycle of a mammal (not a human).	What I think	What my teacher thinks
Remember to/that:		
The mammal life-cycle begins with growth of an embryo inside the female.	☐	☐
Baby mammals are dependent on their parent/s for food and protection.	☐	☐
Juvenile mammals generally live independent of their parents but are not at full maturity.	☐	☐
Adult mammals are fully mature and able to reproduce.	☐	☐
Summarise key information, maintaining accuracy and clarity.	☐	☐
Write neatly, improving presentation.	☐	☐
Organise writing, using subheadings, in chronological order.	☐	☐
Write in full, grammatically correct, sentences.	☐	☐
Check spelling, especially common words and technical vocabulary.	☐	☐

A mammal is a warm-blooded vertebrate, the majority of which give birth to live young that look like smaller versions of the adult. The mother feeds her young with her milk until they are old enough for an adult diet. Mammals are covered in fur or hair.

Mammals can be carnivores (fully meat-eaters, like lions), herbivores (fully plant-eaters, like sheep) or omnivores (eat both meat and plants, like humans).

Mammals breathe air using their lungs, although some live fully in water (e.g. whales and dolphins). Some live fully on land (e.g. giraffes) and some spend time both in water and on land (e.g. seals).

Below you will find a written description of the life-cycle of mammals (not humans), in chronological order. There are also some pictures of each stage – however, these are not in chronological order. Your task for today is to draw a life-cycle diagram, similar to the ones that you have already done for amphibians, insects and birds.

You should include sketches (or cut out the pictures), arrows and a brief description of each stage. The diagram will need a title.

Mammal life stages.

Embryo – mammals begin life as an embryo that grows inside the female. The blood supply of the female nourishes the embryo as it grows. After a period known as *gestation*, the female gives birth. There could be a single baby, or several. Babies are usually born with their eyes closed and unable to move independently.

Baby – a baby mammal is fully dependent on its parents for protection and food. To begin with, the baby will be fed on the mother's milk, before adapting to an adult diet. Baby mammals may have limited mobility and could be susceptible to predators. Some mammals that live in social groups might share the duties of the mother between the adult females.

Juvenile – juvenile mammals might still live with their social or family group, or might be beginning an independent life. They will have been taught how to feed and protect themselves. Juveniles are no longer reliant on their parents for protection and food, although they are not yet fully mature.

Adult – adult mammals are fully mature, are likely to live independently and are able to reproduce. They might fight to determine dominance; some males might grow manes, horns or antlers in order to attract a mate.

