

THRIVING ON THE EDGE: MAMMALIAN CHARACTERISTICS

Key Vocabulary:

- **Vertebrates:** Animals with a backbone or spinal column, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
- **Adaptation:** Change in an organism's structure, function, or behavior that makes it better suited to its environment
- **Diverse:** Showing a great deal of variety; very different
- **Nocturnal:** Active at night
- **Terrestrial:** Living or occurring on land

Justified Multiple Choice:

Answer the questions below. In the right margin, explain why you chose your answer using specific evidence from the text.

1. Which of the following is NOT a defining characteristic of mammals?
 - A) The presence of mammary glands
 - B) The presence of hair or fur
 - C) The ability to regulate body temperature internally
 - D) The presence of a three-chambered heart
2. What is the primary function of mammary glands in mammals?
 - A) To provide insulation and protection
 - B) To regulate body temperature
 - C) To produce milk for nourishing young
 - D) To aid in digestion
3. What evidence supports the highly adaptable nature of mammals?
 - A) Their ability to grow hair
 - B) Their ability to regulate body temperature
 - C) Their unique jaw structure
 - D) Their presence in a wide range of climates

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Short Answer:

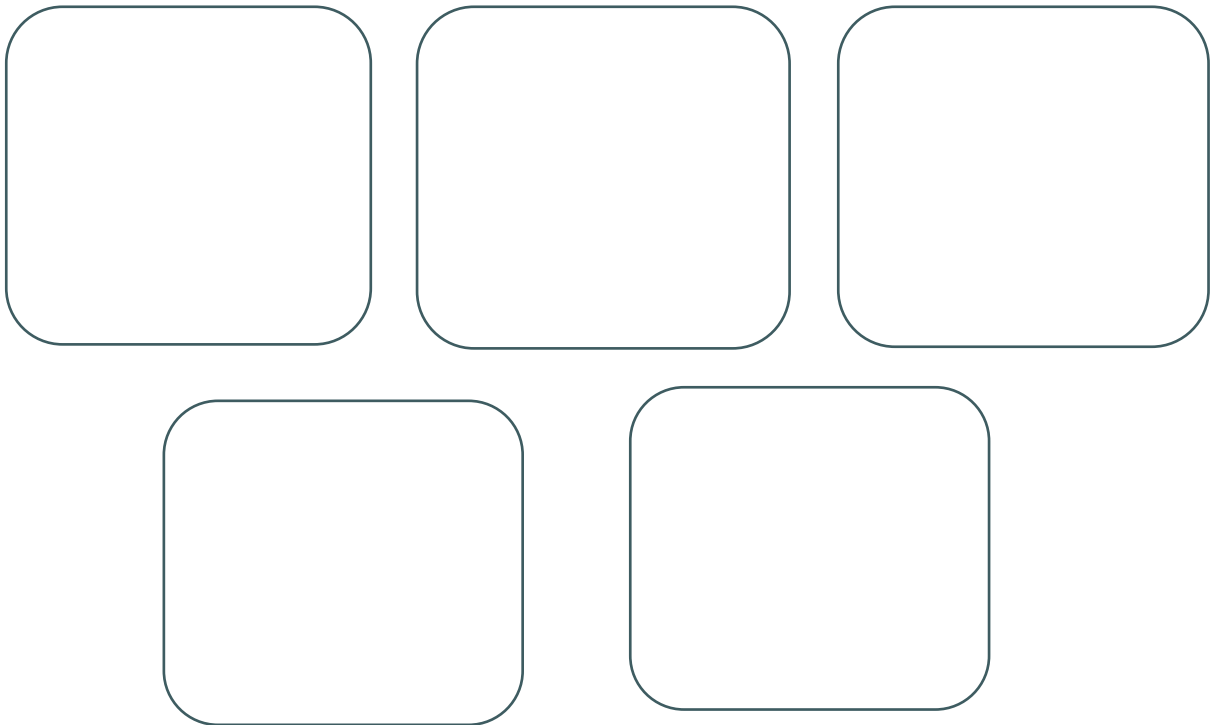
4. Explain how the four-chambered heart of mammals contributes to their survival.

5. Describe the evolutionary path of mammals, highlighting the key adaptations that led to their diversification.

6. How does the presence of mammary glands in mammals contribute to their success as a group?

Make-a-Meme:

Create memes, comic book panels, or write rich sentences that illustrate the words defined at the top of page 1.



The form consists of five empty rounded rectangular boxes arranged in two rows: three in the top row and two in the bottom row. These boxes are intended for students to create memes, comic book panels, or write rich sentences illustrating the words defined at the top of page 1.