

LIGHTNING
BOLT
BOOKS



Do You Know
about
Mammals?

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Mammals Have Hair

A giraffe chews on some leaves. Her calf chews some too. A skunk sniffs beetles to eat. Her kits follow. Giraffes and skunks look different. But in some ways, they are alike. Both animals are mammals.

What are mammals?

Mammals are animals with fur or hair.

Skunks have black and white fur.



Giraffes have short fur with brown spots.



Squirrels are covered with fur from head to tail.



A squirrel has thick fur. It helps the squirrel stay warm in winter.

All mammals have some hair.

Elephants have hairy tails.

Mammals are endotherms. They make their own body heat. Their temperature always stays about the same. In snowy forests or sunny fields, their bodies stay warm.



A lynx sits under the hot sun. But its body temperature stays the same.

Some mammals live in frozen places. Polar bears swim in chilly waters. They run across ice. Thick fur keeps them warm.



Polar bears stay warm in the coldest places.

**Mountain goats climb snowy cliffs.
Fur keeps their body heat inside.**



Other mammals live in hot deserts. A camel's furry coat protects it from the hot sun. Desert pocket mice stay cool underground. They find food at night. It's cooler then.

Camels have fur.
The fur helps
them stay cool in
the desert.



Baby Mammals

A mother wolf feeds her pups. This wolf pup is drinking milk. Baby mammals drink milk from their mother. **Are wolves mammals?** Yes! Wolves have fur, and their pups drink milk.



Wolf pups
drink milk.

A baby deer
drinks its
mother's milk.

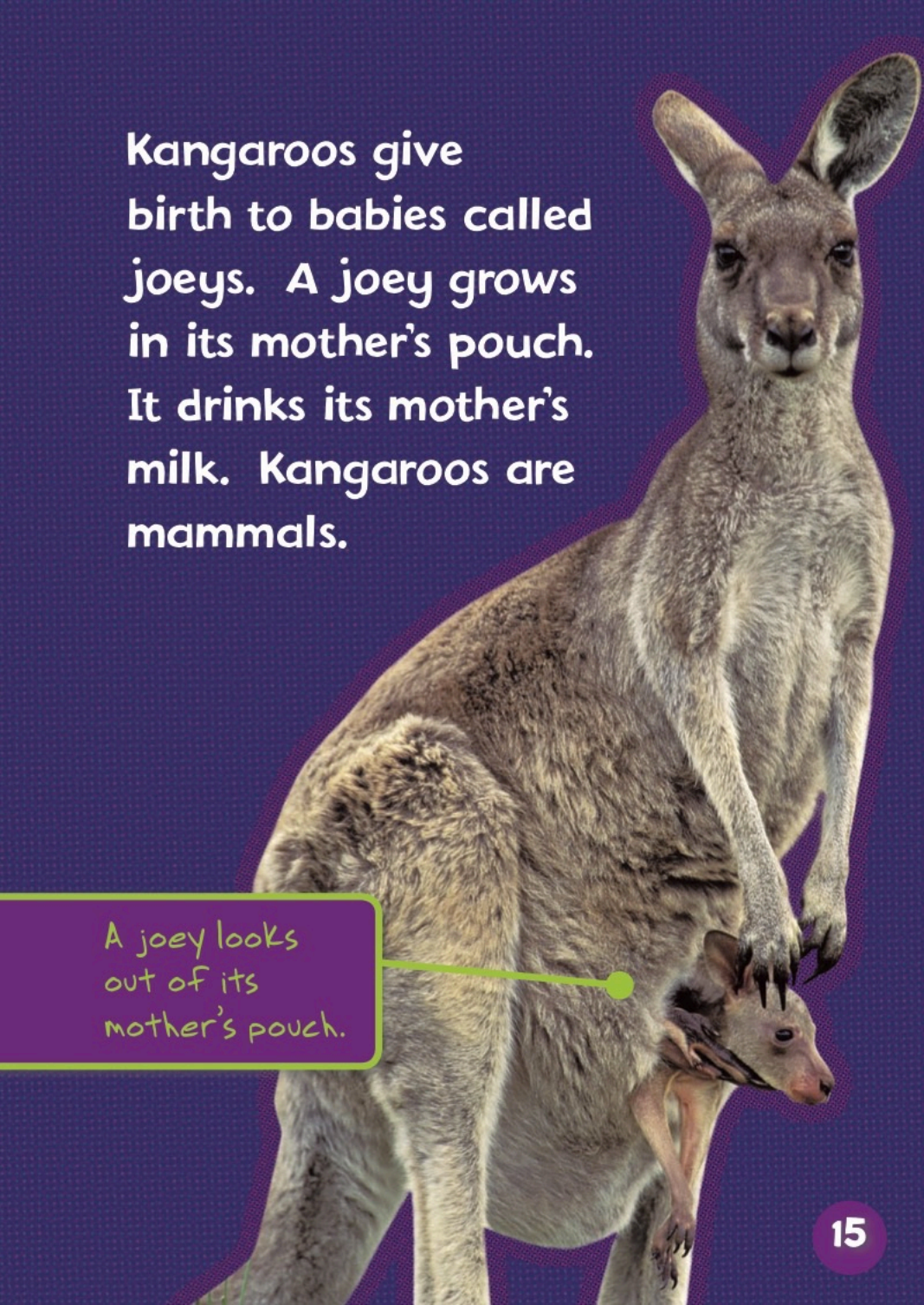


Most mammal babies grow inside their mothers' bodies. The babies look like their parents. Piglets look like pigs.

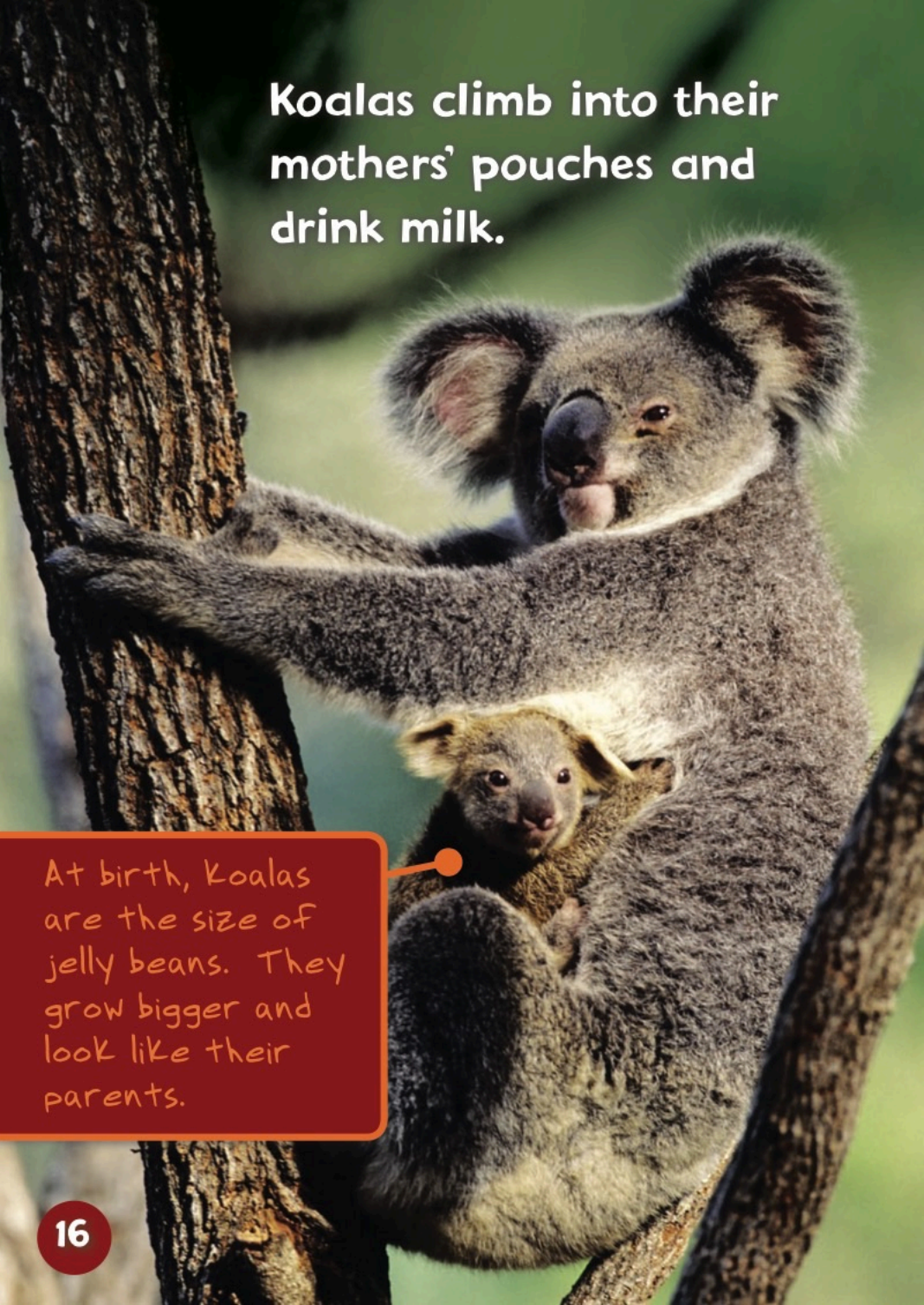
Piglets drink their mother's milk. Pigs are mammals.



Kangaroos give birth to babies called joeys. A joey grows in its mother's pouch. It drinks its mother's milk. Kangaroos are mammals.



A joey looks out of its mother's pouch.

A close-up photograph of a koala mother clinging to a tree trunk. She has a joey (baby koala) nestled in her pouch. The joey is looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

Koalas climb into their mothers' pouches and drink milk.

At birth, Koalas are the size of jelly beans. They grow bigger and look like their parents.

A few mammals lay eggs.

A platypus is a mammal that lays eggs. After platypus eggs hatch, the babies drink milk.

A platypus is a mammal.

Platypus babies do not have fur when they hatch. Their fur grows later.





A jackrabbit eats leaves from a tree.

What Mammals Eat

Baby mammals drink milk. They learn to eat different foods as they grow up. **What do mammals eat?** Beavers nibble on branches and leaves.

Mammals that eat plants are called herbivores.




Beavers eat bark and leaves.

A tiger creeps close to a deer and pounces. Mammals that eat other animals are called carnivores.



This tiger has caught its meal.

A photograph of an opossum climbing a green plant stem at night. The opossum is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing right. It has greyish-brown fur and a long, thin tail. The plant it is climbing has thick, green, segmented stems and large green leaves. The background is dark, suggesting a nighttime setting. A blue callout box with a purple pointer is located in the upper left corner.

Opossums hunt for food at night.

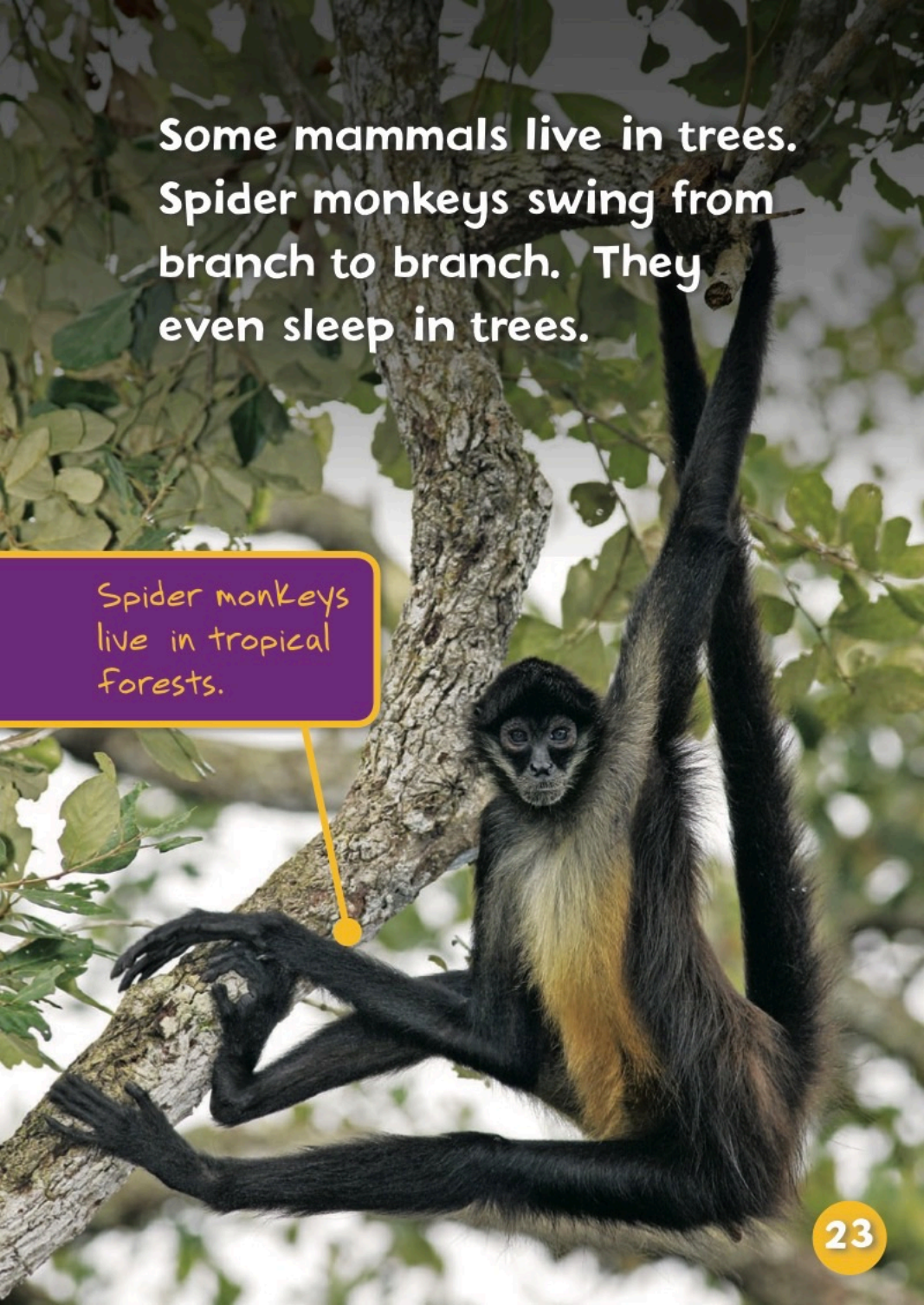
Opossums feast on insects and berries. Mammals that eat both plants and animals are omnivores.

Mammals Live Everywhere

Mammals live all over the world. They live in deserts and in forests. Some mammals live in water.

Do you see hairs on this seal? Seals are sea mammals. Sea mammals have a thick layer of fat, called blubber. It keeps them warm.



A photograph of a spider monkey hanging from a tree branch. The monkey has black fur on its head, arms, and legs, with a white and yellowish-orange patch on its chest. It is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green forest.

Some mammals live in trees.
Spider monkeys swing from
branch to branch. They
even sleep in trees.

Spider monkeys
live in tropical
forests.

Do any mammals fly?

Bats do! Bats have fur. Their wings are made of thick skin.

Bats hunt for insects at night.



Mammals Breathe Air

Mammals live in many places.
But they all breathe air.
Dolphins breathe through a
blowhole on top of their heads.



Dolphins are mammals. They breathe air and feed their babies milk. Baby dolphins have hair on their snouts.

Whales can swim underwater for more than an hour. Then they come up for air.



A whale spouts air and water from its blowhole.

All mammals have some hair
or fur. Their body heat always
stays about the same. Their
babies drink milk.

Are you a mammal?

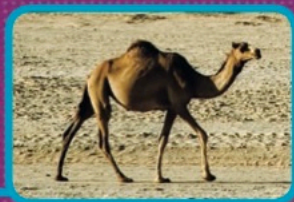


Find My Home

Match the mammal to its home:



beaver



camel



mountain goat



bat



whale



baby kangaroo



human child



snow-covered
mountain

kangaroo
pouch



ocean



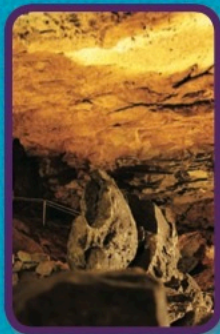
lodge in a pond



house



cave



desert



Check your answers
on page 31.

Glossary

blowhole: an opening on the top of the head of a whale or dolphin for breathing

blubber: a layer of fat under the skin of whales and other sea mammals

calf: a baby giraffe

carnivore: an animal that hunts and eats other animals

endotherm: a warm-blooded animal whose body heat always stays about the same

herbivore: an animal that eats plants

joey: a baby kangaroo or koala

kit: a baby skunk

mammal: an animal that has hair, drinks its mother's milk, and whose body heat always stays about the same

omnivore: an animal that eats both plants and other animals

temperature: a measure of hotness or coldness





Further Reading

All about Mammals

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/mammals.htm>

Brownwell, M. Barbara. *Mammals*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Nature Library, 1993.

Mammals: National Geographic Kids

<http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals.html>

Small Mammals for Kids: Smithsonian National Zoological Park

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/SmallMammals/ForKids/default.cfm>

Answer key for pages 28-29:

beaver - lodge in pond

camel - desert

mountain goat - snow-covered mountain

bat - cave

whale - ocean

baby kangaroo - kangaroo pouch

human child - house

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