



Mammal Study

Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal." Name three characteristics that distinguish mammals from all other animals.
- 2) Explain how the animal kingdom is classified. Explain where mammals fit in the classification of animals. Classify three mammals from phylum through species.
- 3) Do ONE of the following:
 - A) Spend 3 hours in each of two different kinds of natural habitats or at different elevation. List the different mammal species and individual members that you identified by sight or sign. Tell why all mammals do not live in the same kind of habitat.
 - B) Spend 3 hours on each of 5 days on at least a 25-acre area. List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.
 - C) From study and reading, write a simple history of one non-game mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by man. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, what eats it, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants, upon other animals (including man), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to man.
- 4) Do ONE of the following:
 - A) Under the guidance of a nature center or natural history museum, make two study skins of rats or mice. Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.
 - B) Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record light conditions, film used, exposure, and other factors, including notes on the activities of the pictured animals.
 - C) Write a life history of a native game mammal that lives in your area, covering the points outlined in requirement 3C. List sources for this information.
 - D) Make a bait and tracking pit. Report what mammals and other animals came to the bait.
 - E) Visit a natural history museum. Report on how specimens are prepared and cataloged. Explain the purposes of museums.
 - F) Write a report of 500 words on a book about a mammal species.
 - G) Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.
- 5) Work with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.

Requirement 1

Explain the meaning of the following terms:

Animal: _____

Invertebrate: _____

Vertebrate: _____

Mammal: _____

List 3 characteristics that distinguish mammals from all other animals:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Requirement 2

Explain how the animal kingdom is classified: _____

Where do mammals fit in the classification of animals? _____

Classify three mammals from phylum through species:

Mammal: _____ Classification: _____

Mammal: _____ Classification: _____

Mammal: _____ Classification: _____

Requirement 3

You have been given three options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Spend 3 hours in each of two different kinds of natural habitats or at different elevation.

Describe each of the two areas or elevations that you spent 3 hours in:

Area/Elevation 1: _____

Area/Elevation 2: _____

List the different mammal species and individual members that you identified by sight or sign:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Why don't all mammals live in the same kind of habitat? _____

If you selected *Option B*:

Spend 3 hours on each of 5 days on at least a 25-acre area.

Describe the 25-Acre area that you used for this requirement: _____

List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If you selected *Option C*:

From study and reading, write a simple history of one non-game mammal that lives in your area.

What mammal have you chosen to write your report about? _____

What is the natural habitat of this mammal? _____

What does this mammal eat? _____

What eats this mammal? _____

How does it reproduce? _____

How did this mammal live before man affected its habitat? _____

How is it dependent upon plants, other animals and man? Also how are those things dependent upon this mammal? _____

How is this mammal helpful or harmful to man? _____

Requirement 4

You have been given seven options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Under the guidance of a nature center or natural history museum, make two study skins of rats or mice. Give a brief summary of how you made each skin and a description of each:

Skin 1: _____

Skin 2: _____

Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.

Study skin uses: _____

Mounted specimen uses: _____

If you selected *Option G*:

Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.

Mammal: _____

Mammal: _____

Possible Food Chain One

Possible Food Chain Two

Stage 1: _____

Stage 1: _____

Stage 2: _____

Stage 2: _____

Stage 3: _____

Stage 3: _____

Stage 4: _____

Stage 4: _____

Requirement 5

Work with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.

What project did you and your counselor do? _____

What mammals did or will your project influence? _____

Describe what types of influences your project had or will have on the mammals: _____

