



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

MAMMALS MERIT

1. Complete the following:
 - a. Define *Animal* as used in the term *Animal Kingdom*. List at least five classifications of animals in the Animal Kingdom.
 - b. Arrange the following terms in the proper order that are used for classifying the organisms in the Animal Kingdom: Genus, Kingdom, Family, Phylum, species, Class, and Order.
 - c. Define *vertebrate*. List at least three other classes of animals besides mammals that are defined as vertebrates.
 - d. List three main traits that all mammals have that distinguish them from other Chordates. List at least two other common characteristics of mammals.
 - e. List the three ways mammals give birth to their young. Give the technical name for each type and list at least one example of each.
 - f. Create a three column chart listing at least fifteen orders of mammals, a main characteristic of each order, and an example of an animal from each order. List the names of the two largest orders.
2. Research the number of mammal species threatened with extinction. Include the date of the research in your answer. List the primary reasons these mammals are threatened.
 - a. List at least three mammals that are on the endangered species list and explain what conservationists are doing to preserve these species.
 - b. List at least three mammals that are extinct.
 - c. List at least three mammals that were on the endangered species list at one time but are no longer on the list. Explain the factor(s) that put the species on this list and what was done to preserve these mammals.
3. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Visit a game reserve and write a report of at least five hundred words about your observations. Record the mammal species inhabiting this site. Determine the preservation measures that have been provided at the site. List any law that protects the mammals at this particular site.
 - b. Spend at least five to seven days in either a mountainous or desert area. Make and bait a tracking pit. Write a report of at least five hundred words about your observations. Identify the area visited in your report. Identify the mammals that inhabit this area and then list the mammals you actually saw. Record the observed behaviors of these mammals. Report what mammals and other animals came to the bait.
 - c. Select a mammal that lives in your area and write a five-hundred-word report about your choice. Include in your report:
 - What does the mammal eat?
 - What eats it?
 - What is its natural habitat?
 - How does this mammal reproduce?
 - Is it nocturnal or diurnal?
 - Does it prepare for winter by storing food or hibernating?
 - How has this mammal been affected by humans?
 - Have humans been a detriment to this mammal and/or has it been a detriment to humans?Explain.
 - d. Take photos of at least two kinds of mammals in the wild. Write a five-hundred-word report recording your photographic information, such as film used, speed of film, exposure of the aperture, speed setting, and time of day. Include descriptions of the animals' activities you photographed.
4. List at least eight professions that work with mammals. Select one of these professions and describe the educational preparation required for an entry-level position. List current salary ranges for this field.