

Marvelous Mammals

Connect the picture of the animal with the fact.

(Answers at bottom)

Mammal: An animal that has a backbone, breathes air, feeds its young with mother's milk, and regulates its own body temperature.



1. In some countries, people sometimes drink the milk from this animal. At birth, a calf's eyes are open and it already has a thick wooly coat. It will not start developing a hump until it begins to eat solid food.

2. These animals live to be about 60 years old. The baby is born nearly blind and at first relies, almost completely, on its trunk to discover things. They nurse their young for three to four years.

3. When this baby is about nine months, he is old enough to leave the pouch and the mother gives birth again. One of her teats makes milk to meet the needs of the older baby who will nurse for about 18 months, and one of her teats makes milk to meet the needs of the new baby.

4. This mother most often gives birth to one baby at a time but can fully nurse twins and sometimes nurses more than one child of different ages. Nursing two children at once is called 'tandem nursing.'

5. This baby nurses for at least six months. The mother will keep her baby nearby long enough for him to know her smell, call and stripes (which are unique to her).

6. This baby should only have mother's milk and no other food or drink for the first six months of life. By around one year of age, they begin to walk.

7. These mothers nurse sitting up. Babies weigh about two pounds at birth and will weigh 500-1300 pounds as an adult. They nurse for about two and a half years.

8. This mother nurses her baby while floating on her back and holding the baby on her chest. She quickly teaches her baby how to swim and hunt. A baby nurses for six to eight months.

Marvelous Mammals page 2

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9. These animals have between six and twelve babies per litter. Each of the babies claim their own teat within two days of birth and nurse only from that teat.

10. Sometimes, this mother will nurse a baby she has adopted and not given birth to.

11. These mothers leave their babies on the shore when they hunt and return to feed them once or twice a week. Babies are able to survive for several weeks without feeding and are able to swim from an early age.

12. This baby stands on its long legs and nurses within one to three hours after birth.

13. These babies rely on their sense of smell and touch because their eyes remain closed for seven to ten days after birth. Their sense of smell helps them find their mother's nipples. They knead the nipples to get milk to flow.

14. At birth, this baby drinks very small amounts (about the size of a marble) and because he poops and pees very often, he needs to eat about every two hours for the first couple weeks.

15. When this baby is born, it's the size of a peanut! It crawls into its mother's pouch and attaches to a nipple to drink milk. By seven months of age, the baby pokes its head out and starts to explore. By 12 months the baby is weaned, but will return to the pouch for safety until it is 18 months old.

