



# Mammal Study

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you, but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.  
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.

You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub.# 33216) and/or on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2023 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal."

Animal


Invertebrate


Vertebrate


Mammal


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Name three characteristics that distinguish mammals from all other animals.

1.	
2.	
3.	

2. Explain how the animal kingdom is classified.


Explain where mammals fit in the classification of animals.


Classify three mammals from phylum through species.

Mammal			
Phylum:			
Class:			
Order:			
Family			
Genus			
Species			

3. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Spend three hours in two different kinds of natural habitats or at different elevations for a total of 6 hours. List the different mammal species and how many of each you identified by sight or sign. Tell why all mammals do not live in the same kind of habitat.

Location 1		Location 2	
Species	Number	Species	Number

Tell why all mammals do not live in the same kind of habitat.


Spend three hours on five different days in at least a 25-acre area (about the size of 3 1/2 football fields) for a total of 15 hours. List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.

- b. Spend three hours on five different days in at least a 25-acre area (about the size of 3 1/2 football fields) for a total of 15 hours. List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Date					
Start Time					
End Time					
Species:					

- c. From study and reading, write a simple life history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Describe how humans have benefited from the mammal you have chosen and whether the mammal has benefited from association with humankind.

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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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Skin 1:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skin 2:	

Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.


- b. Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record the date(s), time of day, weather conditions, approximate distance from the animal, habitat conditions, and any other factors you feel may have influenced the animal's activity and behavior.

	Photo 1	Photo 2
Mammal:		
Date:		
Time of Day:		
Weather Conditions:		
Approx. Distance:		
Habitat Conditions:		
Other factors:		

- 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

Native Game Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans.


Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat.


Describe its dependency upon plants, upon other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it.


Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind.


Sources:


- 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. *(Use a separate page.)*
- g. Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.

Possible food chain 1:

Soil:	
Stage 1:	
Stage 2:	
Stage 3:	
Stage 4:	

Possible food chain 2:

Soil:	
Stage 1:	
Stage 2:	
Stage 3:	
Stage 4:	

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


When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.  
You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.