

## Nature 2 U (On-Site or Outreach Program) – Mammals: Nature Exploration

**Topics covered:** Lions, and tigers, and bears, and humans, oh my! What do humans have in common with lions, tigers, and bears? We are all mammals. Learn about what makes mammals unique and the adaptations of mammals in different environments.

**Ages:** PK – 8<sup>th</sup>

**Purchase Details:** \$6 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221  
Tuesday - Friday, sessions by appointment

### Objectives:

1. Learn what makes a mammal a mammal.
2. Identify different animal adaptations, defense mechanisms, and how to distinguish between predators and prey.
3. Meet live mammals.

**Vocabulary:** adjusted for specific grade levels

Mammary gland  
endothermic  
vertebrate  
gestation  
marsupial  
omnivore  
carnivore

herbivore  
defense mechanism  
urbanization  
viviparous  
altricial  
precocial

### Fun Facts:

- All mammals have hair or fur, even whales and dolphins (although it may disappear over time).
- Almost all animals give birth to live young, except for monotremes (echidnas and platypuses) who lay eggs.
- The Virginia opossum is North America's only marsupial. They also have more teeth than any other mammal and each opossum can eat up to 5,000 ticks each year which helps to slow the spread of Lyme disease.
- Raccoons are the state mammal of Tennessee. The white-tailed deer is the state mammal of Mississippi and Arkansas.

**Web Resources:**

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – [www.tn.gov/twra.html](http://www.tn.gov/twra.html)

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – [www.tnwf.org](http://www.tnwf.org)

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – [www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/](http://www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/)

TWRA Mammals of Tennessee – <https://www.tn.gov/twra/wildlife/mammals.html>

**Where:** Lichterman Nature Center Amphitheater or classrooms

**When:** Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
  - **(Grade Level)** PK - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
  - LS (1-4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
  - L (1-4), E (9-10)
- **Arkansas**
  - LS 1, 2, 3, 4