

26.4 Mammals

KEY CONCEPT

Evolutionary adaptations allowed mammals to succeed dinosaurs as a dominant terrestrial



26.4 Mammals

- ▶ **All mammals share several common characteristics.**
 - Mammals are active, large-brained, endotherms with complex social, feeding, and reproductive behaviors.



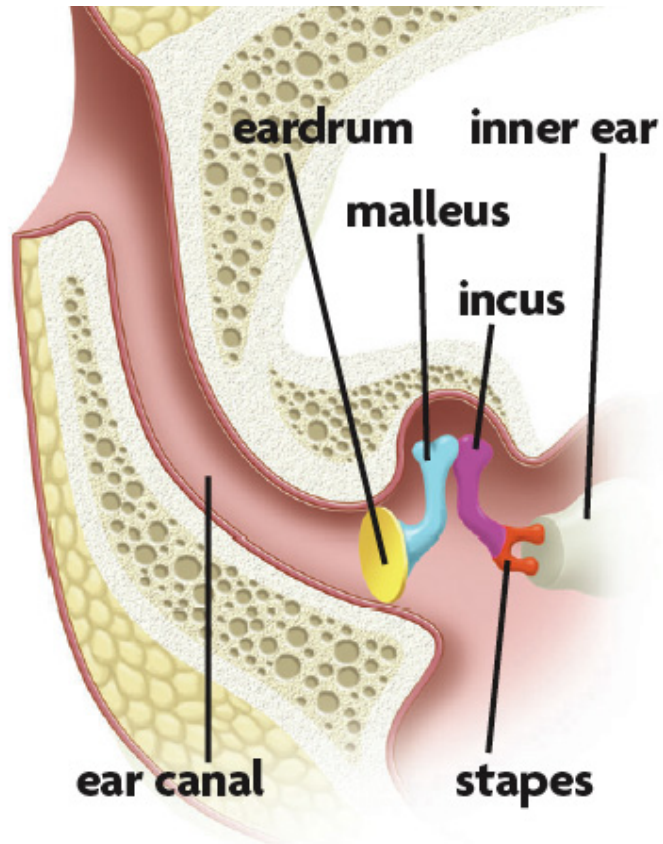
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- All mammals share four anatomical characteristics.
 - hair to retain heat
 - mammary glands to produce milk



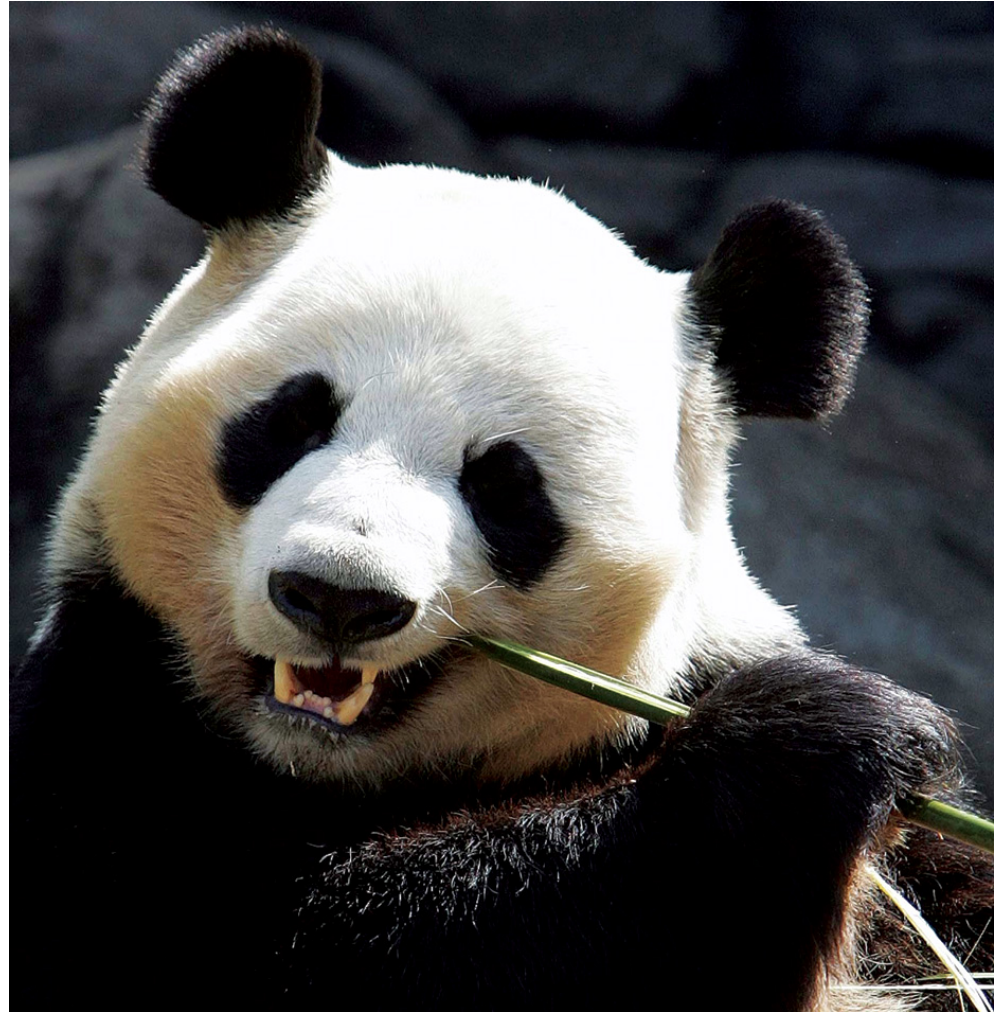
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- All mammals share four anatomical characteristics.
 - a middle ear with three bones to hear higher-pitched sounds
 - chewing jaw to break up food quicker



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- A set of adaptations in the mammalian jaw makes chewing possible.
 - secondary palate closes off air passages
 - muscles move jaw side-to-side



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▶ **Modern mammals are divided into three main groups.**

- Monotremes lay eggs.
 - duck-billed platypus
 - echidna



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- Marsupials give birth to live young that grow to maturity inside a pouch.
 - opossum
 - kangaroo
 - wombat
 - koala



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- Eutherians give birth to live young that have completed fetal development.
 - most familiar mammals
 - humans
- Eutherians filled many niches after the extinction of the dinosaurs.

