

CHAPTER 35 MAMMALS**Get the Big Picture**

Read the paragraphs in the boxes. Then answer the questions below them.

What do a polar bear and a dolphin have in common? They are both mammals. Mammals, like birds, are **endotherms**. This means that they can maintain their body temperature. For example, when dolphins swim in cold water their bodies stay warm. Most mammals also have hair or fur to help keep them warm and to protect them. The white fur of polar bears keeps them warm in very cold climates. It also helps them blend in with their snowy surroundings. In this way, they are not easily seen by their prey.

1. Name two characteristics of mammals that help keep them warm. _____

Mammals have a sheet of muscle under their chest cavity. This muscle sheet is called a **diaphragm**. As the diaphragm stretches, the cavity expands. When the diaphragm contracts, the cavity gets smaller. The diaphragm helps mammals take in the large amount of oxygen they need to heat, cool, and move their bodies.

2. What does the diaphragm help mammals do? _____

Mammals help their young survive by feeding them milk from their **mammary glands**. Mammals also teach their young survival skills.

3. How do mammals help their young survive? _____

4. Review all the paragraphs in the three boxes above. Then list three characteristics of mammals.

