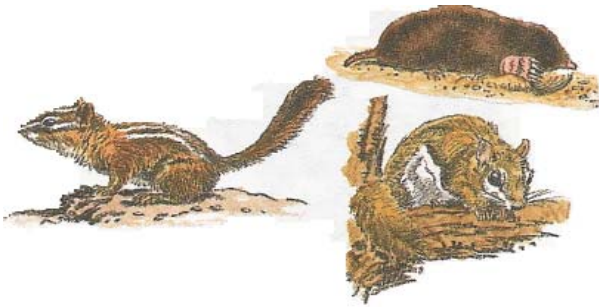


North American animals



What do a field mouse and a grizzly bear have **in common**? For one thing, they are (1) _____ **mammals**. That's a word used to **describe** animals that have mammary glands for feeding (2) _____ young. All mammals, **including humans**, also have *backbones*.

Their bodies are usually **covered with fur** or hair. Mammals are **warm-blooded**, (3) _____ means they **maintain** the same **body temperature** in both cold and hot weather.

You're sure to see many mammals (4) _____ your adventures. Take time to **watch them closely**. Try to **figure out** what they are eating, how they find **shelter**, and the (5) _____ they **defend** themselves. That little field mouse, for instance, **scurries among** the

grasses (6) _____ search of **insects** and **seeds**.

When startled, it **relies** (7) _____ **speed** to carry it to a safe **hiding place**.

Rabbits also use bursts of speed **to escape predators**. Powered by **muscular hind legs**, they **scamper away from danger** in a zigzag course (8) _____ larger animals cannot easily follow. Rabbits and mice use their smaller **front legs** to hold the grasses on which they feed.



Perhaps you have seen *squirrels* near your **campsite**. Their long tails **give them balance** (9) _____ they run along **branches**. Sharp claws **allow them to grip** the bark of trees. Like chipmunks, they **fill their cheeks with** nuts and grains. Sometimes **they store food** in holes in trees or in the ground, returning to eat it (10) _____ **food sources are scarce**.