

Session title	Investigating mammals	
Key question	What are mammals and how are they adapted to their habitats?	
Session description	What is a mammal? Meet our otters and discover how they have evolved to become perfectly adapted to their habitat. Take on the role of a bat to experience how it has become adapted to life in the dark. Can you create your own wetland creature? How will you make it adapted to its wetland home?	
Key Stage	KS2	
Duration	60 mins	

Curriculum links	Key Stage 2 Science - Recognise that environments can change and that this can pose dangers to living things. - Identify how animals are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation can lead to evolution.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners...	More able learners...	
	Will be able to identify two wetland mammals Will be able to describe two adaptations of wetland mammals	Will be able to describe the benefits of two adaptations of wetland mammals Will be able to compare the adaptations of different wetland animals	
Key vocabulary	Mammal Survival Evolve	Adaptation Habitat	Feature Characteristics

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: 'What are mammals and how are they adapted to their habitats?' The session leader develops the learners' understanding of what a mammal is and what the terms 'adaptation' and 'habitat' mean.	
Activity 1	5 mins
Learners meet the Furry Snorkel-mouse, to introduce the five adaptations they will need to think about in the imaginative challenge at the end of the session.	
Activity 2	10 mins
Learners, in their groups, observe the otters' appearance, behaviour and habitat, using the laminated prompt sheets to ask and answer appropriate questions. The session leader demonstrates the otter skull and the learners share their otter observations.	
Activity 3	10 mins
Learners play Bat & Moth, a circle game in which alternate pairs of children, the bat and the moth, are blindfolded, and the predator has to catch its prey by sound alone, enclosed by a circle of trees (the other children).	
Activity 4	25 mins

Learners use the adaptations dressing-up props to create a wetland animal using the five adaptations they have learned about, dressing up one of the children in their group. The leader/teacher will choose two groups to present their creature to the rest of the class. Learners share their creations with the whole group.	
Plenary	5 mins
We review the key question. What have we learned about mammals' adaptations?	