

Meet the Many “M” Animals

Can you find 40 'M' letters? Can you find 29 different 'M' animals?

Many animals start with “**M**”:

Manatee ‘sea cows’ and **M**uskrats that swim.

Moles, digging tunnels, trying to see;

Monkeys, cavorting from tree to tree.

Meerkats and **M**armots and **M**armosets, too.

Mountain Lions, **M**ice, and **M**usk-Rat Kangaroos!

Markhors and **M**ongoose, **M**usk Ox and **M**inks;

Marsh Frogs, **M**arine Toads, **M**orethia Skinks.

Mayflies that live a day; **M**oths in the night.

Millipedes, **M**ealworms, **M**osquitoes that bite.

Mockingbirds, **M**eadowlarks, singing their song.

Mud Snakes and **M**ilk Snakes - they slither along

The **M**egamouth Shark, looking out for a **m**eal,

finds a dangerous dinner of fresh **M**oray Eel!

And one last “M” -

if you're looking for more;

Here's the **Megalosaurus** – ‘T-Rex’ Dinosaur!

Did You Know?

1. *Letter ‘M’ Mammals - *There are 5,000 species of mammals in all different habitats around the world. Mammals give birth to their young, have milk glands, are warm-blooded, and have fur or hair.*

- **Manatee:** large, aquatic herbivore with flippers and a broad, flat tail that lives in warm coastal waters.
- **Markhor:** large, rare, wild Himalayan goat with spiral, curved horns.
- **Marmoset:** small, clawed monkey that lives in South American forests.
- **Monkey:** medium sized, long-tailed omnivore. There are 264 species of Monkeys in the world.
- **Mink:** semi-aquatic carnivores of Europe and North America in the family of otters and weasels.
- **Mountain Lion:** powerful, wild cats in mountains of Western Hemisphere; also called Puma/Cougar.
- **Musk Ox:** large, ‘shaggy’ cattle of Canada and Greenland with broad flat horns with curved tops.

2. *Letter ‘M’ Mammal ‘Rodentia’ - *½ of animals that meet the criteria for being a mammal also exhibit rodent-like characteristics. They have upper and lower sharp, rootless incisor teeth that ‘gnaw’ and never stop growing)*

- **Marmot:** a big, chubby, bushy-tailed squirrel of the Northern Hemisphere. Weighs up to 22 pounds.
- **Mongoose:** bushy-tailed carnivore of Europe/Asia/Africa. Immune to snake poison. Weighs up to 10 pounds..
- **Mole:** lives in tunnels near water all over the world. Must eat every few hours (earthworms).
- **Meerkat:** South Africa, in the Mongoose family but more sociable. Size and weight of a common squirrel.
- **Mouse:** small pesky animals in all habitats worldwide; pointed snout, rounded ears and long, hairless tail.
- **Musk Rat Kangaroo:** rat-like marsupial Kangaroo (1 pound) only in NE Australia.
- **Muskrats:** large wetlands vegetarian with dense brown fur and musk glands under broad flat tail.

3. *Letter 'M' Bird - *Birds are 'warm-blooded' animals with feathers, toothless beaks, lay eggs, and have strong, light skeletons. There are over 10,000 species of birds.*

- **Meadowlark:** songbird of the Americas with brown plumage and yellow breast.
- **Mockingbird:** songbird in the Americas and Canada with gray and white plumage.

4. *Letter 'M' Amphibian - *Amphibians are semi-aquatic animals. (Frogs, toads, salamanders, skinks). They must stay near water for skin moisture and to lay eggs.*

- **Marsh Frog:** (or Lake Frog). Largest green 'true frog' native to Europe. Grows up to 5".
- **Marine Toad:** (Cane Toad, Giant Toad). 'True' toad' native to South America. 9" and toxic.

5. *Letter 'M' Fish - *Fish are fully aquatic cold-blooded animals with gills to breathe underwater, and fins to steer and propel their streamlined body through water.*

- **Moray Eel:** a tropical elongated snake-looking fish; fierce fighter in coastal waters.
- **Megamouth Shark** is a real fish discovered in 1976; rare and feeds by filtering krill.

6. *Letter 'M' Insects - *Insects are six-legged, have wings, have three body parts, and two 'antennae'. Insects lay eggs that develop into adults. There are over 900,000 species of insects identified in the world.*

- **Mayfly:** fragile winged, short-lived insect that develops larvae in water.
- **Moth:** different from butterflies by nocturnal activity, hairlike antennae, and stout bodies.
- **Mosquito:** type of two winged insect. Female has long proboscis for sucking blood.
- **Mealworm:** the 'baby' (larvae) of the Black Beetle insect. Lays eggs in grain products such as flour.

7. *Letter 'M' Reptiles - *Crocodiles/lizards/turtles/snakes/dinosaurs. Lays eggs. Do not nurture young. Cold-blooded. Must 'bask' in the sun to regulate their body temperature. Scaly skin.*

- **Mud Snake:** up to 7 feet long, non-poison, black and red water snake of the SE United States.
- **Milk Snake:** harmless, but red/black bands are like the very venomous Coral and Copperhead snakes.
- **Morethia Skink:** smooth-skinned little lizard with no neck and tiny legs found around the world.
- **Megalosaurus Dinosaur:** was half the size of the 'T-Rex 'meat-eater'. Named in 1824.

8. *Letter 'M' Millipedes - *are a class of animals named for a word that means 'joint legs'. Millipedes and centipedes can have many many legs. Spiders, shrimp, and crayfish are in this family.*

- **Millipede:** These long, black, harmless bugs are not actually worms. 'Millipede' means 'creature of a thousand legs', but the most legs found on a millipede is 750.

True False Quiz

The answers are in the Story and did You Know

Circle the right answer.

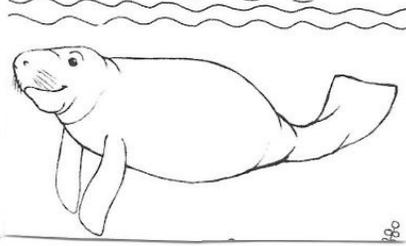
1. T F A Manatee is called a sea 'cow'.
2. T F Mayflies live only one day.
3. T F A Megalosaurus is a dinosaur.
4. T F A Musk Ox is a kind of cattle.
5. T F Mammals give birth and have milk glands.
6. T F Birds lay eggs.
7. T F A Moray Eel is a snake.
8. T F A Milk Snake is dangerous.
9. T F All true Insects have six legs.
10. T F Frogs, toads, salamanders, and skinks are amphibians.

(Letter 'M' animals are not in comparative scale)

Markhor



Manatee



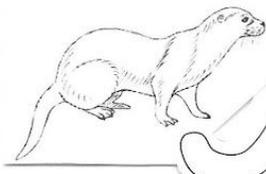
Monkey



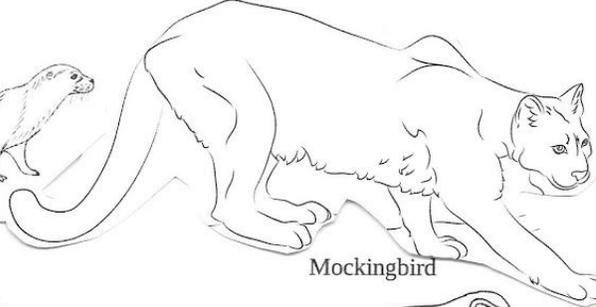
Marmoset



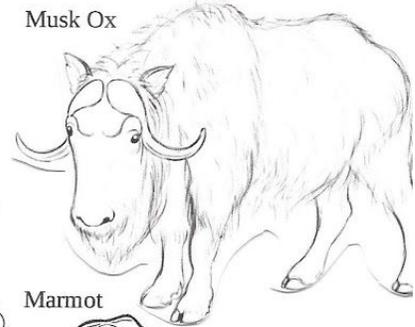
Mink



Mountain Lion



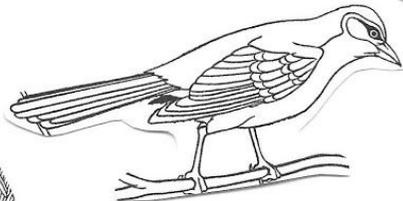
Musk Ox



Meadowlark



Mockingbird



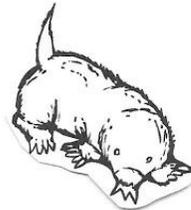
Marmot



Mongoose



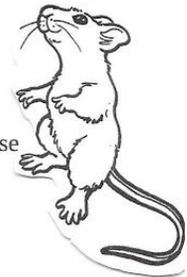
Mole



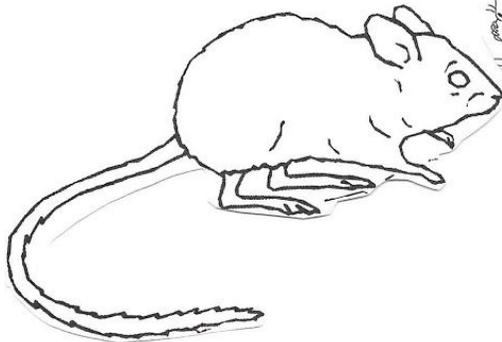
Meerkat



Mouse



Musk Rat Kangaroo



Muskrat



Marsh Frog

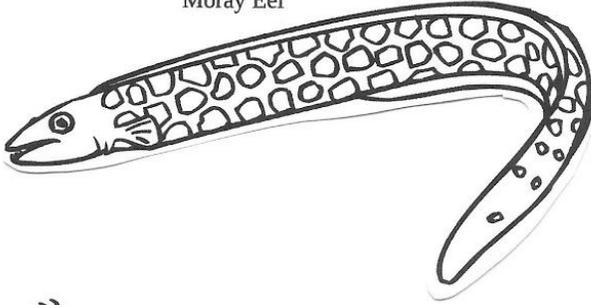


Marine Toad

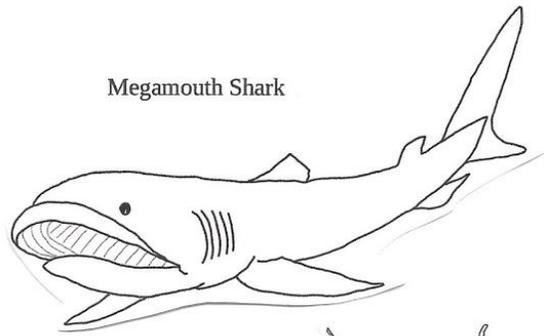


(Letter 'M' animals are not in comparative scale)

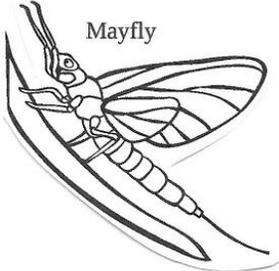
Moray Eel



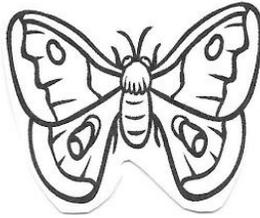
Megamouth Shark



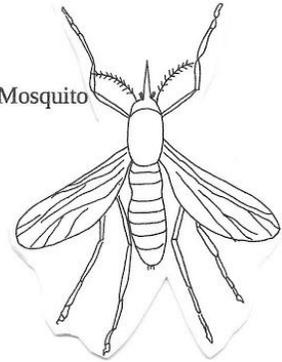
Mayfly



Moth



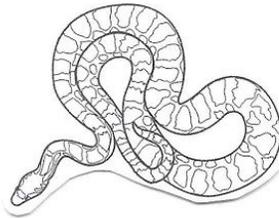
Mosquito



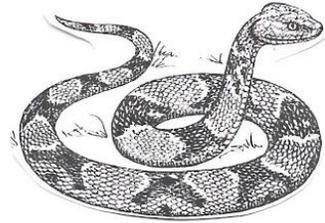
Mealworm



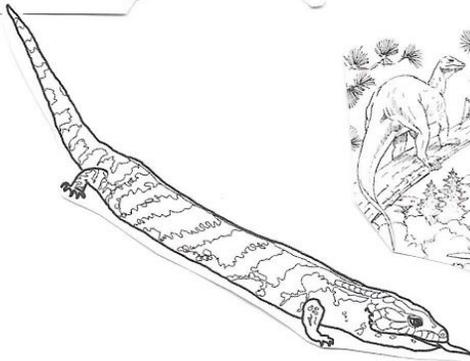
Mud Snake



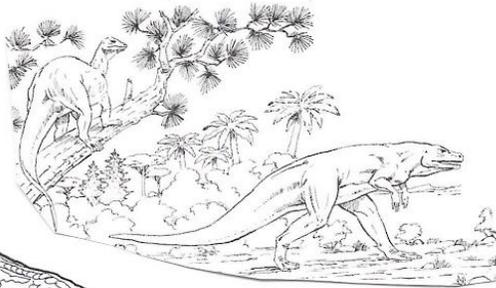
Milk Snake



Morethia Skink



Megalosaurus Dinosaur



Millipede

