

# Answers

1. **Although all of our mammals share these same characteristics, some of them do stand out from the crowd...**

What is the author trying to say in this sentence? Tick one.

- all mammals are very different  
 **all mammals have the same basic features but some have special skills in certain areas**  
 all mammals are exactly the same  
 certain mammals aren't warm-blooded

2. Complete the missing information in the table:

Body Feature	Water Vole	Rat
<b>tail</b>	<b>shorter and furry</b>	long and hairless
nose	<b>rounded</b>	<b>pointed</b>
<b>ears</b>	<b>small and hidden</b>	obvious

3. **... or looking after vulnerable, young cubs in their first weeks of life.**

Define the word vulnerable based on its use in this sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: weak, defenceless, helpless (or any other suitable synonym/definition).**

4. Which French word means 'digger'?

**bêcheur**

5. Use the section on dormice to match the statement with the reason:

Dormice are tiny creatures	because they need a warm and insulated place to hibernate before the weather gets too cold.
Dormice build their nests before the onset of winter	because they are short of food or are finding the weather conditions harsh.
Dormice sometimes enter into torpors	because they weigh only 15g and measure 8cm in length.

6. Give two reasons why dormice sightings are very rare.  
**Accept any two of the following reasons taken from the text: They are nocturnal; they are tiny creatures; they hibernate for around six to seven months each year; they are hidden in nests in dense woodland, under leaves or hollowed trees; they enter into torpors and sometimes also hibernate in the spring and summer months.**
7. Explain one way in which bats and dormice are **similar** and one way that they are **different**.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Bats and dormice are alike because they are both nocturnal animals but the mammals are different because dormice don't have the ability to fly like bats do.**
8. Look for an example of a **simile** in this text. Explain why it isn't actually factual.  
**'as blind as a bat'**  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The simile isn't fair because bats aren't actually blind. They just don't rely on their sight as much as some of their other senses.**
9. Which do you consider to be the 'Champion of all Champions' of the British mammals discussed within the text. Explain your reasons fully.  
**Pupils' own responses with justification from the text, such as: I think that the bat should be named the Champion of all Champions because they are the only mammal that can fly and they also have the super special skill of being able to use echolocation to sense their surroundings.**
10. Summarise the purpose of this text and its intended audience.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this text is intended for a young audience, especially children who are interested in wildlife and its purpose is to entertain them and inform them of when and where they may be able to spot certain creatures.**