

Scientific Event:

Appearance of the Wild Animal Mammals

Time Frame: ~62 million years ago

The scientific descriptions on these pages are derived from AI investigations using ChatGPT and Gemini 3 asking about the appearance of the first wild mammals on earth like lions, tigers, bears, and wolves and the subsequent evolution of these animals. The AI output has been revised appropriately for improved accuracy, ease of comprehension, and relevance to this study of Genesis 1.

Background: The Origins of the Class *Mammalia* (Mammals)

- In the Linnaean taxonomic hierarchy, the wild animals are of the Kingdom Animalia (animals), Phylum Chordata (animals with a spinal cord), Class Mammalia (mammals), and the Order **Carnivora**. So, we take a look first at the origin of class of mammals.

Modern large mammals have their deepest roots in early *mammaliaforms*—small, mostly nocturnal, insectivorous creatures that evolved from **synapsid** ancestors. Key stages include the following.

1. Synapsids → Cynodonts

- a. **Synapsids** (the “mammal-like reptiles”) emerged over 300 Ma ago
- b. **Advanced cynodonts**, appearing ~240 Ma, possessed many mammalian traits: differentiated teeth, warm-blooded physiology, whisker-bearing snouts, and early forms of the mammalian jaw/ear structure

2. True Mammals

- a. By ~200 Ma, the first true mammals (*Morganucodon*, *Hadrocodium*) existed
- b. They were small, shrew-like generalists, not large predators or herbivores

3. **No large mammals** existed at this stage; ecological niches for large land predators were dominated by dinosaurs.

4. Everything changed **66 million years ago** when an asteroid hit Earth. With the dinosaurs gone, these small survivors exploded into the diverse forms we see today.

Development of the Carnivora Order and Suborders

After the extinction event of 66 Ma, the earliest ancestors of the Carnivora order were known as [carnivoramorphs](#).

1. **Cardiomorpha** (carnivoran-like-forms)
 - a. **Time Frame:** ~62 to 50 Ma
 - b. Clade of placental mammals
 - c. Small to medium-sized
 - d. Generalist carnivores or insectivores
 - e. Partial development of carnassial teeth
 - f. Flexible limb structure (not yet specialized for pursuit or ambush)
 - g. Primarily in North America and Eurasia
2. Later split into two major suborders
 - a. Split occurred ~50 to 42 Ma
 - b. The [Feliformia](#) (cats, hyenas, mongooses)
 - i. Earliest feliforms: ~45 – 42 Ma
 - c. The [Caniformia](#) (dogs, bears, seals, raccoons)
 - i. Earliest caniforms: ~45 – 40 Ma

Description in Genesis 1 of This Event

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:24-25 (NIV)

Passages left highlighted are those most relevant to the scientific event of interest

The approach that this supplement pack takes in making associations between Genesis 1 events and scientific events is to use the earliest scientific event that makes sense according to the Hebrew words used in Genesis 1 (i.e., the use of good hermeneutics) while also considering where the event would likely be placed on a timelines that is consistent with the sequence of events described in Genesis 1.

In this case, the wild animal ancestors appeared somewhere around 62 to 50 million years ago. Therefore, we use 62 Ma for the point on the timeline for this event from Genesis 1:24-25.

We note that the times used for the different mammals do not line up perfectly with the order given in Genesis 1:24-25 using the assumption of taking the earliest scientific event. For example, the Genesis text mentions livestock, then rodents, then wild animals. But using our approach, the associated time frames would then be ~55.4 Ma, ~60 Ma, and then ~62 Ma, the opposite order of what would be expected. It should be pointed out that these time frames are all very close to each other from the perspective of the overall history of the Earth. Plans are to investigate this further and to cover these issues more fully in future iterations of this supplement pack.

