

OVERVIEW

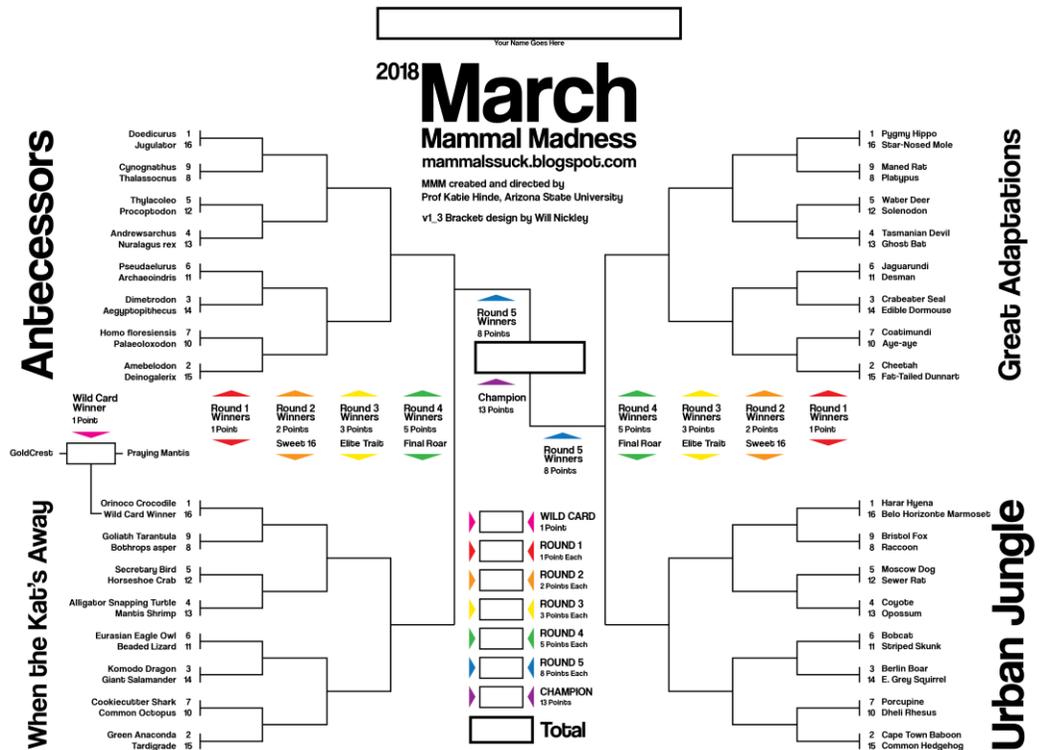
1. Complete your bracket in ink (predict all the winners), submit one copy to your teacher
2. Connect along with others nationwide to find out who wins each battle
 - a. Follow official MMM Twitter account @2018MMMletsgo for battle highlights and outcomes
 - b. Follow and post with #2018MMM and #2018MMMk12 to join the conversation and trash talk other participants
 - c. Go to <http://mammalssuck.blogspot.com> for more information
3. Fill out reflection charts before each battle

4 DIVISIONS

Great Adaptations	Antecessors	Urban Jungle	When the Kat's Away
<p>All mammal species are unified in their synthesis of milk to nourish, protect, and guide newborn development. But some mammals bring a little extra, from venom to lathering up with poisonous tree bark!</p> 	<p>Mammals descended from Mammalia forms that descended from Therapsids that descended from the Synapsids that emerged over 300 million years ago. These fossil species are some of the most spectacular creatures to have ever roamed Earth!</p> 	<p>Some species are incredibly adept at making human habitats their own. These animals not only survive, but thrive in suburbs and cities. They're highly adaptable!</p> 	<p>This isn't an only-mammal show. This division showcases some fantastic non-mammalian species with their own unique competitive style!</p> 

BATTLE SCHEDULE

Event (8PM EST)	Date
Wild Card: Praying Mantis vs. Gold Crest	Mar 12
1st Round: Great Adaptations	Mar 14
1st Round: Antecessors	Mar 15
1st Round: Urban Jungle	Mar 19
1st Round: Kat's Away	Mar 21
2nd Round: UJ & GA	Mar 22
2nd Round: A & KA	Mar 26
3rd Round: Sweet 16	Mar 28
4th Round: Elite Trait	Mar 29
5th Round: Final Roar	Apr 2
Championship	Apr 4



FAQ

How do I earn points?

Participants fill out their brackets with their choices for the winners for each bout. Each correct prediction earns points as follows:

- Wild Card = 1 point
- Round 1 = 1 points each
- Round 2 = 2 points each
- Round 3 = 3 points each
- Round 4 = 5 points each
- Round 5 = 8 points each
- Champion= 13 points

How are the winners determined?

The organizers take info about their weaponry, armor, fight style, temperament/motivation, diet, size, and any special skills/consideration and estimate a probability of the outcome to develop the seed, or rank, of each animal (the number next to the name). Then a random number generator is used to determine the outcome- this is why there are upsets in the tournament.

Another thing that can happen is if a species has to battle in an ecology that is really bad for it- so if a cold adapted species is battling in a tropical forest- it can dangerously overheat- changing the outcome probabilities. Sometimes an animal gets injured or snaps a canine in a previous round that carries over into the next round- just like an injury of a star player totally changes a basketball team's outcome. Also hiding or running away counts as a forfeit.

In the early rounds the battle location is in the preferred habitat of the better-ranked combatant in the battle (home court advantage), and ecology can play a huge role in what happens. Once to the Elite Trait the battle location is random among 4 ecologies (Urban Park, Cloud Forest, Tinajas, Savanna Grassland) in Elite Trait, Final Roar, and Championship battles. The location is announced right before the battle.

Are the battles one on one or do social mammals get their buddies?

The battles are one individual from the species vs. one individual from the other species. Also as you are estimating your outcomes, assume that the combatants represent the most prime-aged, tough specimen of that species. And just as in nature, there can occasionally be scientifically-grounded outsider interference.

Is the battle always to the death?

The battles are NOT always "nature, red in tooth and claw." Sometimes the winner "wins" by displacing the other at a feeding location, sometimes a powerful animal doesn't attack because it is not motivated to- a few years ago in the "Who in the What Now?" Division we had a dhole lose to a binturong because the night before dhole had gorged on babirusa and the gut passage time of wild-canids being 24-48 hours. This meant that the dhole was still full from the night before and unwilling to take the risks of tangling with the binturong. Even a small claw cut or bite wound can get infected and lots of times an animal will back down rather than take a risk for little potential benefit

What is an "upset"?

This is when a low ranked team beats a high ranked team. 9 beating 8 isn't a super impressive upset. In the actual NCAA tournament upsets happen when a 12 will beat a 5 or an 11 will beat a 6, once every few years a 15 will beat a 2 in the first round. For example,

What is a "Cinderella" team?

A "cinderella" team is a low-ranked team that progresses multiple rounds of the tournament systematically beating higher ranked teams.

So should I always pick the better ranked mammal?

No! Real fans don't abandon their favorite mammals just because they are pathetic at this kind of battle (although hopefully well-suited to their particular ecological niche). People will clown you if your bracket is TOO conservative by always picking the higher ranked team. Also the rankings are not infallible -for example, in 2013, many people felt the platypus was terribly under-seeded because the males have venomous spurs.



Round 1 – Behavioral Adaptations
Wednesday, March 14 #2018MMM
Division: GREAT ADAPTATIONS



Predicted species	Winning species	+1 if correct	New fun fact you learned about losing species	New fun fact you learned about winning species	What is a behavioral adaptation that may help the winning animal win again?

Behavioral adaptations – suckling, taxes/taxis, migration, estivation, hibernation, habituation, imprinting, classical conditional, trial and error learning, and social structure of the species (e.g. cooperative group-living)



Round 1 – Behavioral Adaptations
Thursday, March 15 #2018MMM
Division: ANTECESSORS



Predicted species	Winning species	+1 if correct	New fun fact you learned about losing species	New fun fact you learned about winning species	What is a behavioral adaptation that may help the winning animal win again?

Behavioral adaptations – suckling, taxes/taxis, migration, estivation, hibernation, habituation, imprinting, classical conditional, trial and error learning, and social structure of the species (e.g. cooperative group-living)



Round 1 – Behavioral Adaptations

Monday, March 19 #2018MMM



Division: URBAN JUNGLE

Predicted species	Winning species	+1 if correct	New fun fact you learned about losing species	New fun fact you learned about winning species	What is a behavioral adaptation that may help the winning animal win again?

Behavioral adaptations – suckling, taxes/taxis, migration, estivation, hibernation, habituation, imprinting, classical conditional, trial and error learning, and social structure of the species (e.g. cooperative group-living)



Round 1 – Behavioral Adaptations

Wednesday, March 21 #2018MMM



Division: WHEN THE KAT'S AWAY

Predicted species	Winning species	+1 if correct	New fun fact you learned about losing species	New fun fact you learned about winning species	What is a behavioral adaptation that may help the winning animal win again?

Behavioral adaptations – suckling, taxes/taxis, migration, estivation, hibernation, habituation, imprinting, classical conditional, trial and error learning, and social structure of the species (e.g. cooperative group-living)



Round 2 – Environmental Impacts
Thursday, March 22 #2018MMM
Division: GREAT ADAPTATIONS



Predicted species	Winning species	+2 if correct	What is a specific abiotic factor that will help the winner? (e.g. sea ice for polar bears)	What is a specific abiotic factor that will hurt the winner? (e.g. heat for polar bears)	Which randomly chosen ecosystem would be the worst for the winner?

Division: URBAN JUNGLE

Predicted species	Winning species	+2 if correct	Abiotic factor that will help the winner?	Abiotic factor that will hurt the winner?	Which ecosystem would be the worst for the winner?



Round 2 – Environmental Impacts
Monday, March 26 #2018MMM
Division: ANTECESSORS



Predicted species	Winning species	+2 if correct	Abiotic factor that will help the winner?	Abiotic factor that will hurt the winner?	Which ecosystem would be the worst for the winner?

Division: KAT'S AWAY

Predicted species	Winning species	+2 if correct	Abiotic factor that will help the winner?	Abiotic factor that will hurt the winner?	Which ecosystem would be the worst for the winner?



Round 3 – Sweet 16 – Human Impacts
Wednesday, March 28 #2018MMM



Division: ANTECESSORS

Predicted species	Winning species	+3 if correct	What caused the winning species to go extinct?	Which species living today is the most closely related to the winning species?	If brought back from extinction, do you think the winning species could survive today? Why or why not?

Division: GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Predicted species	Winning species	+3 if correct	What is the IUCN red list conservation status of the winning species?	What are the biggest threats to the winner?	What is the population trend of winning species?



Round 3 – Sweet 16 – Human Impacts
Wednesday, March 28 #2018MMM



Division: URBAN JUNGLE

Predicted species	Winning species	+3 if correct	What is the IUCN red list conservation status of the winning species?	What are the biggest threats to the winner?	What is the population trend of winning species?

Division: KAT'S AWAY

Predicted species	Winning species	+3 if correct	What is the IUCN red list conservation status of the winning species?	What are the biggest threats to the winner?	What is the population trend of winning species?



Round 4 – Elite Trait– Evolutionary History

Thursday, March 29 #2018MMM



Division: GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Predicted species	Winning species	+5 if correct	Is the winning species a generalist or a specialist?	How many millions of years ago did this winning species first evolve?	Based on your answers to the preceding, do you think the winning species will survive to the next round? (Is it resilient?)

Division: URBAN JUNGLE

Predicted species	Winning species	+5 if correct	Is the winning species a generalist or a specialist?	How many millions of years ago did this winning species first evolve?	Based on your answers to the preceding, do you think the winning species will survive to the next round?



Round 4 – Elite Trait – Evolutionary History

Thursday, March 29 #2018MMM



Division: ANTECESSORS

Predicted species	Winning species	+5 if correct	Is the winning species a generalist or a specialist?	How many millions of years ago did this winning species first evolve?	Based on your answers to the preceding, do you think the winning species will survive to the next round?

Division: KAT'S AWAY

Predicted species	Winning species	+5 if correct	Is the winning species a generalist or a specialist?	How many millions of years ago did this winning species first evolve?	Based on your answers to the preceding, do you think the winning species will survive to the next round?



Round 5 – Final Roar
Monday, April 2 #2018MMM
GREAT ADAPTATIONS vs URBAN JUNGLE



Predicted species	Winning species	+8 if correct	Describe how you think the winning species would fare in a head-to-head battle with a human being. Explain your answer, using what you have learned about this species throughout the competitions.



ANTECESSORS vs KAT'S AWAY



Predicted species	Winning species	+8 if correct	Describe how you think the winning species would fare in a head-to-head battle with a human being. Explain your answer, using what you have learned about this species throughout the competitions.



Championship Battle!!
Wednesday, April 4 #2018MMM

vs

Predicted species	Winning species	+13 if correct	Based on everything you know about the winning, do you think it should have won the championship? Why or why not?	Which species do you want to see in #2019MMM? (Tweet it out!)