

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

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Animal Adaptations (3-5)

Essential Question

Why do different animals have different body parts?

Objectives

1. Know definition of adaptation and learn some examples of adaptations.
2. Know why adaptations are important and how they help a species to thrive.

Vocabulary

Adaptation: The ways animal species adjust or change to be able to live where and how they do. Many species can only live in certain places because of their specific adaptations.

Environment: The surrounding habitat with features an animal needs to survive.

Recommendations

Read:

["How Do Animal Adapt \(The Science of Living Things\)"](#) – Bobbie Kalman

["What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?"](#) – Steve Jenkins

Research:

- Different types of animal adaptations
- Why different adaptations are useful
- Where animals get their adaptations from

Discuss:

What kind of adaptations do humans have? Why are they important?

What are adaptations used for?

What are some kinds of animal adaptations?

Classroom Activity

Adaptation Matching Quiz

- This activity may be done individually or in groups or modified for younger students.

Individually: After completing their quiz, have students work in pairs to share their answers with one another.

In groups: After completing the quiz, groups should compare answers with the class.

For younger students: Instructor should lead the entire class through the quiz. The favorite animal adaptation activity can be repeated with an animal of their choosing, either individually or as a class.

Standards

PA Academic: 3.1 A5, 3.1 B1, 3.1 C2, 4.1 D, 4.1 E

Next Generation Science: K-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1

New Jersey Core Curriculum: 5.1, 5.3A, 5.3D, 5.3E, 5.4 G

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3

Adaptation Matching Quiz

I am a Bird that likes to swim. What kind of feet do I have?



I am a Mammal that has lots of blubber and thick fur to keep me warm. What animal am I?



I am an animal that has a hard protective covering on my body. What animal am I?



I am a Mammal that likes to eat lots of green leaves at the tops of the tallest trees. Which adaptation do I have?



Sharp Teeth



Long Neck



Large Shell

Here at the Philadelphia Zoo, our rats know how to walk a tightrope. What adaptation do they use to keep their balance?



Whiskers



Feet



Tail

What adaptation do animals need to hide from predators?

- a) Bright Colors
- b) Camouflage
- c) Big Feet
- d) Small Ears

Favorite Animal Adaptation

Draw your favorite animal on this sheet and circle some of its adaptations. On the lines below write what those adaptations are and why they are important.


