

ADAPTATION SCAVENGER HUNT

TEACHER GUIDE



Theme: Adaptations

Grade Band: 3 – 5

Time: Approximately 1 hour

Goal

Students will learn about adaptations and the role adaptations play in animal survival.

Objectives

1. Students identify what an adaptation is and how adaptations are necessary for the survival of animals.
2. Students recognize that adaptations will help animals to survive in a specific habitat.

Vocabulary

Adaptation Migration Camouflage

Standards

Grade	Strand	Topic	Content Statement
3	Life Science	Behavior, Growth and Changes	Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.
3 – 4	Inquiry		Observe and ask questions about the natural environment.
3 – 4	Inquiry		Communicate about observation, investigation and explanations.
5	Inquiry		Think critically and logically to connect evident and explanations.

ADAPTATION SCAVENGER HUNT

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Adaptation Scavenger Hunt

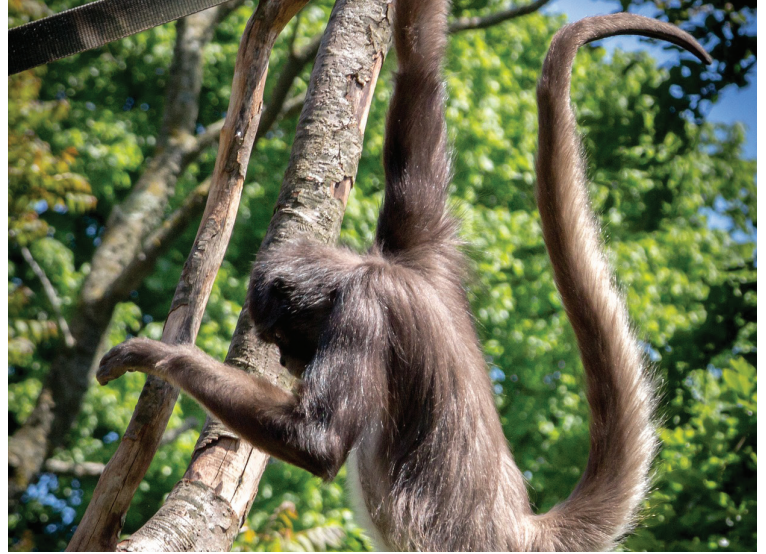
Activity Steps:

- A. Introduce the word adaptation. Adaptation: is a physical feature or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment. Students will explore some adaptations that help animals survive in different environments.
 1. Students start by comparing the two images at the top of the Adaptation Scavenger Hunt worksheet. Once students have written answers, discuss the adaptations that can be seen. Adaptations could include fur, hands, teeth, tails, feet, etc. Once students have an understanding of the adaptations, compare the two animals. Do they have the same adaptations or are they different? Do they live in the same habitat?
- B. Students will then find Adaptation cards that are hidden around the classroom. They will use the adaptation cards to fill out the remaining sections on Adaptation Scavenger Hunt. These cards will highlight how certain adaptations help each animal survive. After completion, go over the adaptations as a class to ensure understanding. Ask what would happen if the animal was in a different habitat? Would their adaptations still help?
- C. To apply what they have learned, students will use the Adaptation Creation Worksheet to design their own animal. When designing the animal, students should think about what habitat their animal lives in, and what adaptations the animal should have to help it survive there.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Adaptation Scavenger Hunt



What features do these organisms have that help them survive?

Directions: Find each animal's card hidden around the room. Read the card and write a sentence or two about how the animal's adaptation helps it survive.

Species: Meerkat

Ecosystem: Desert

Species: Sandtiger Shark

Ecosystem: Ocean

Species: Koala

Ecosystem: Eucalyptus Forest

Species: Scarlet King Snake

Ecosystem: Desert

Species: Canada Goose

Ecosystem: Pond

Species: Musk Ox

Ecosystem: Tundra

Name: _____

Date: _____

Adaptation Creation

Directions: Design your own animal species that has adapted to survive in a specific ecosystem.

Name of your Species:

Ecosystem:

Diagram:

Adaptation:



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MUSK OX

For most people, hair is a decorative yet unnecessary feature. But to most mammals in the wild, hair offers important protection from the elements. The musk ox is a superb example. Its hair is an important adaptation to its bitterly cold home on the vast Alaskan tundra. Its thick, shaggy hair hangs down to the ground during the winter, when temperatures get as low as -30°F — then some of the hair is shed in time for summer, as temperatures reach $40\text{-}50^{\circ}\text{F}$.

The scarlet king snake is a harmless species. However, it has developed the same patterns and coloring of the venomous coral snake.



Photo By Glenn Bartolotti, Creative Commons License

SCARLET KING SNAKE

During warmer months, Canada geese are typically found in Canada and northern parts of the United States. However, as the weather becomes colder and resources grow scarce, the geese migrate. During this seasonal migration, the geese fly in a V-shaped formation and usually arrive in their southern grounds by mid to late November.



CANADA GOOSE



MEERKAT

Meerkats live in the hot deserts of Africa where the sun often shines brightly. They have dark circles of fur around their eyes that act like sunglasses. This adaptation helps them see even when the sun is shining brightly.



SANDTIGER SHARK

Sandtiger sharks have a method of camouflage called countershading. They are darker on the top half of their body and lighter on the bottom. This causes them to blend into the sea floor when seen from above and with the sunlight when seen from below.

Koalas in Australia have adapted to eat only the leaves of eucalyptus trees. These leaves are poisonous to most animals and provide very few nutrients.



KOALA