

Animal Adaptations

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Answer Key

Short Answers

1. A. What is an adaptation?

An adaptation a change in animal populations over time.

- B. Give an example of an adaptation?

An example of adaptation is the giraffes' neck becoming longer over time. Giraffes' ancestors had shorter necks over time the necks elongated to able to reach food sources on high trees. They also have specialized blood vessels in their necks that allow giraffes to bend their head down with out the blood rushing to their head.

2. What is your favorite animal? Draw this animal and labels its adaptations for survival.

Answers may vary. See example below:



3. When the environmental changes, animals have three choices, what are they?

To respond to environmental changes, animals have three choices: adapt to the changes, move (or migrate), or die.

4. How is a chameleon adapted for defense?

Chameleons can change color to blend in with the background of where it is hiding.

5. What is a living fossil?

A living fossil is an animal that has remained unchanged for many years. The Coelacanth (“see-la-kanth”) is a good example of a living fossil. This fish was thought to have gone extinct more than 400 million years ago.

6. What is natural selection?

Natural Selection is a theory that states that animals with the best adaptations will survive to pass on their genes. Better adopted animals will out compete their neighbors. It is also called the “Survival of the Fittest.”

Making the best better!

Find the words that go in the blanks by using the puzzle.

A	D	A	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	N	L	S	W	I	M	S
B	R	T	O	W	E	D	I	E	S	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S
F	A	G	L	U	O	Q	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	O
G	G	O	L	I	U	T	R	N	H	C	A	R	A	P	A	C	E
T	S	L	I	K	R	D	E	Y	M	I	G	R	A	T	I	O	N
R	R	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	P	O	I	N	T
T	U	H	A	E	S	O	L	K	Y	S	R	E	A	D	I	N	G
Y	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	T
U	S	H	E	B	U	C	R	U	S	T	A	C	E	A	N	S	L

1. The changes that help an animal to survive in different environments are called **ADAPTATIONS**.
2. **SPECIES** is a group of animals that share characteristics and that can reproduce.
3. Hummingbirds, bees, and other insects help to **POLLINATE** plants.
4. The process where animals move to other environments during the year is called **MIGRATION**.
5. **NATURAL SELECTION** is the theory that allows animals with the best adaptations to pass on those genes to others.
6. The back on a crayfish is called the **CARAPACE**.
7. Penguins use their wings to **SWIM**, not to fly.
8. Animals such as lobsters and crayfish are called **CRUSTACEANS**.

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