

Animal Adaptations

STUDENT PAGE 1

DRIVING QUESTIONS

What physical and behavioral adaptations do animals have and how do those adaptations serve as survival strategies?

OBJECTIVES

I will explore different physical animal adaptations and how they help animals survive.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Note: Younger students may need assistance with reading the directions or completing the activities.

- Curiosity Cultivation — Your teacher will provide the link to PowerPoint slides.
- You can watch the Part 1 video with your teacher or your teacher may have you view it on your own. The video will introduce you to different physical adaptations and how those adaptations help animals survive.
 - [Creature Features \(Grade 1\)](#)
 - [Physical/Structural Adaptations \(Grades 3-5\)](#)
- Animal videos — you can watch some or all of the animal videos below to understand specific physical adaptations for a specific animal.
 - [Barn owl](#) (bird of prey)
 - [Bison](#) (primary consumer)
 - [American Alligator](#) (predator)
 - [Frog/Salamander](#) (predator)
 - [Atlantic Sturgeon](#)
 - [Insects](#) — videos of [mealworm](#), [bess beetle](#), and [Madagascar hissing cockroach](#) (decomposers)
 - [Channel Whelk](#)
- [Mimicry game](#) — this game will help you see how butterfly species have developed similar appearance to a poisonous butterfly to help it survive. You, as the player, is a bird and you will come to learn which butterflies you can eat and which ones you cannot. Too many poisonous ones and you might get sick or die. This also helps you to understand learned behavior as a predator.
- [Camouflage Hide and Seek](#) — this activity will help you to create camouflaged shapes. Once they complete the activity, they can share a picture or video within your class' Google folder to see if their classmates can find the hidden shape(s).
- [Animal Classification](#) based on physical characteristics
 - [Vertebrate Artifacts 360](#) — In a museum style set up, you can explore the 5 vertebrate animal groups.
 - [Invertebrates](#) — This Happy Learning educational video for kids is 5:25 in length on YouTube and explores the classification of the 6 invertebrate groups.

ACTIVITY

There are hundreds of adaptations — all of them are fascinating and interesting to explore. In this first lesson, you will get to know different animals and some of the adaptations that help them survive. Have fun exploring and if you find an adaptation that you are interested in, keep exploring.

Once you have explored adaptations and the resources on this page, your teacher will give you access to a google slide in the Curiosity Cultivation activity.

Directions: Go outdoors for a short walk, and see what animals you see — bugs, birds, your pet, etc. Take a photo of one. Insert your photo from your Wonder Walk into one slide.

- **Notice:** What did you notice when you took the photo? What adaptations does the animal have?
- **Wonder:** What are you curious about? Write 1–3 questions. Be specific in your pondering(s) and avoid asking, “why?”
- **Connect:** Can you think of other animals that have any of the same adaptations?