

Animal Adaptations

Background

Animals have evolved different adaptations to help them succeed and survive in the wild. Butterflies have a long tongue to get at the delicious nectar in flowers, non-venomous snakes mimic venomous snakes to confuse predators, and some animals, like cheetah and birds-of-prey, have evolved keen vision to help them survive.

Goal

The aim of this part of the lesson is to teach students about: the external adaptations that animals use to survive.

In the Classroom:

Use the Camel worksheet to discuss adaptations to the environment. After completion, discuss what other adaptations might occur. Have students predict what other adaptations they might see on their field trip.

At Safari West

Alert your naturalist to focus on the way horns, front/hind limbs, ears/eyes, and beak shapes have become adapted to help the following animals:

Horns - scimitar-horned oryx, Grant's gazelle and watusi cattle

Front/Hind Limbs (hand, feet, hooves, paws) - lemur, fox, porcupine, cheetah

Ears/Eyes - cheetah, lemurs, kudu and ostrich

Beak Shape - African spoonbill, sacred ibis, and kookaburra

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Circulatory System - giraffe, desert animals and cheetah

Respiratory System - cheetah and birds

Digestive System - herbivores vs. carnivores

Back in the Classroom

Ask students to describe their backyard or playground. What kind of habitat does it most closely resemble? Is it a temperate one, or is it a tropical, desert or polar climate? What kind of wildlife does it support?

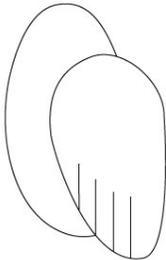
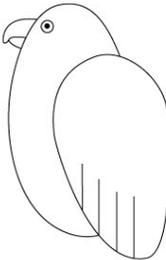
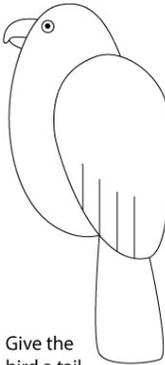
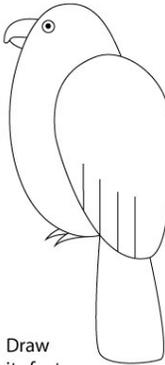


Animal Adaptations continued...

Worksheet: Draw A Parrot

Of all the birds displayed in zoos, parrots are the favorites of many visitors. It may be the birds' bright colors and playful antics that draw the crowds. Or perhaps it's the birds' ability to "talk" – to imitate human speech.

It's easy to draw a parrot, just follow these instructions.

				
Draw this shape.	Add a wing.	Put on a beak and an eye	Give the bird a tail.	Draw its feet

Use this practice box.

Now you're ready to draw a parrot sitting on this branch

