

Structures That Help Plants and Animals Survive

Background

Plants and animals have different structures that help them to survive, grow, and reproduce. These structures can be external, such as eyes and ears, or internal, such as circulatory system

In the Classroom

Use the 20 picture cards and the student recording worksheet to identify and record external or internal structures on each of the plants and animals pictured.

How could the structure help the plant or animal? This could be move, grow, reproduce, survive, behavior and so on. Record this.

When you look at the picture, what can you infer about the environment in which the plant or animal would survive?

What would you expect to find in the environment where the organism exists? For example, tall plants if the animal is a giraffe.

Discussion: identify an environment that supports their plant or animal. Why does that environment support the plant or animal?

Materials: Set of picture cards
Recording worksheet

At Safari West

The goal of this field trip is to teach students about the internal structures that help animals survive. Students should bring a blank worksheet and a pencil to record information about internal structures.

Alert your naturalist to focus on the internal structures of a variety of animals.

Circulatory system: giraffe, desert animals such as addax, and cheetah

Respiratory system: cheetah and birds

Digestive system: ruminants versus hindgut fermenters, and herbivores versus carnivores

Back in the Classroom

Students will create a plant or animal with structures that would help it survive, describe the environment of that plant or animal, and prepare an argument justifying its survival in that environment. Students will present it to the group or the class.

Provide construction paper, pencils and coloring devices such as markers for the students.

