Animal Adaptations

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: An **adaptation** is a feature that helps a living thing **survive**. Adaptations can help animals get **food**, stay **safe** or **move**.

Ask: What does this body part do? How does it help the animal live where it lives?

Built to Survive



An **adaptation** is a feature that helps a living thing survive in its environment. Many adaptations are parts of an animal's body.

Some adaptations help animals **get food**. A hummingbird's long, thin beak reaches nectar deep inside flowers. An eagle's sharp claws, called talons, grip its prey.

Some help animals **stay safe**. A porcupine's sharp quills keep predators away. A snowshoe hare's fur turns white in winter so it can hide in the snow. Hiding by blending in is called **camouflage**.

Others help animals **move** in their home. A duck's webbed feet work like paddles in the water. A mountain goat's hooves grip steep, rocky cliffs.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is an adaptation?

(a) A feature that helps a living thing survive (b) A kind of food (c) A place to live

2. How does a hummingbird's beak help it?

(a) It cracks nuts. (b) It reaches nectar in flowers. (c) It digs holes.

3. What is camouflage?

(a) Running very fast (b) Making loud sounds (c) Blending in to hide

4. What do a duck's webbed feet help it do?

(a) Swim (b) Climb trees (c) Dig

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2. How does it help?

Circle how each adaptation helps the animal.

1	an eagle's talons	getting food	staying safe	moving
2	a porcupine's quills	getting food	staying safe	moving
3	a duck's webbed feet	getting food	staying safe	moving
4	a woodpecker's strong beak	getting food	staying safe	moving
5	a turtle's hard shell	getting food	staying safe	moving
6	a goat's gripping hooves	getting food	staying safe	moving

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **A polar bear has thick fur and a layer of fat. How do these adaptations help it?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is an adaptation?

(a) **A feature that helps a living thing survive** (b) A kind of food (c) A place to live

2. How does a hummingbird's beak help it?

(a) It cracks nuts. (b) **It reaches nectar in flowers.** (c) It digs holes.

3. What is camouflage?

(a) Running very fast (b) Making loud sounds (c) **Blending in to hide**

4. What do a duck's webbed feet help it do?

(a) **Swim** (b) Climb trees (c) Dig

2. How does it help?

		getting food	staying safe	moving
1	an eagle's talons	●	○	○
2	a porcupine's quills	○	●	○
3	a duck's webbed feet	○	○	●
4	a woodpecker's strong beak	●	○	○
5	a turtle's hard shell	○	●	○
6	a goat's gripping hooves	○	○	●

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **A polar bear has thick fur and a layer of fat. How do these adaptations help it?**
   They keep the polar bear warm in its freezing Arctic home.