



Habitats and Adaptations Build an Animal

Directions: Pretend you discovered a whole new species! Use these questions to help you give your imaginary animal its own adaptations. Create an animal that is built to survive?

1. Where does your animal live? What kind of habitat?
2. Is your animal a mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian?
3. How does your animal find its food?
4. Is it an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore? Does it eat only plants, only meat, or both?
5. Is your animal a predator or is it prey? Or is your animal a decomposer?
6. How does your animal get around? Does it burrow, climb, fly, run, slither, hop, etc.?
7. Is your animal awake during the day (diurnal) or is it awake only at night (nocturnal)?



Habitat Descriptions

Desert: An imaginary animal of the desert must have a way to protect itself from the sun. A desert animal also needs a way to preserve water. Protective devices for the eyes, nose and mouth might be needed as well.

Grasslands, Savannahs and Outback: These areas are generally flat open places. In order to prevent an attack, a grassland animal should have special abilities such as keen hearing, excellent eyesight or a very good sense of smell. These animals might have strong legs for running, horns, tusks or claws built for the animals' defense.

Rainforest and Jungle: Dark colors and the ability to climb are important to the inhabitants of the rainforest. Rainforest animals are often loud and noisy to aid in communication with each other and potential predators.

Polar Regions: The animals of the Polar Regions need thick coats of hair or layers of insulation. Food is scarce throughout most of the year. There are few plants besides mosses. Many animals from this region migrate or hibernate.

Oceans and Fresh Waters: Unless an organism has a special connection to the surface or visits the surface frequently, it must have gills for breathing. Animals that live in the water often have streamlined bodies to help them swim. Color is very important because predators can see it not only from the sides, but also above and below.

Woodlands: Animals of the woodlands are diverse. They can be herbivores (plant-eaters) or carnivores (meat-eaters). Their fur, feathers, scales or skin is often colored to match the limbs, trees, leaves and forest floor.