

Adaptations

Grades 3-5

Because of the staggering diversity of the natural world, there are many more choices than those that appear on this answer sheet! Any of these answers may vary. Obvious suggestions appear below, but if your student has made an honest effort to observe and categorize and can explain his or her logic ... its right!

Whiskers to “taste and smell”: any of the catfish or sturgeon

Camouflage to blend in: mossy frogs, seahorses, shrimp fish, most snakes

Bright colors to warn of poison: firebelly toads, butterflies that have black with red or orange markings

Prehensile tail for holding on: seahorse

Feeds from the bottom of the water column: bonnethead sharks, bamboo sharks, sting rays and sturgeon

Filter feeder: paddle fish, bighead catfish

Swims in a school: most fish

Can climb: bighead turtle, otters, macaws

Defends itself using spines: sting ray, tang, surgeon fish, porcupine fish

Webbed feet for swimming: penguins, ducks, otters, water turtles

Flattened to live on the bottom: hellbender, sting rays

Sharp teeth for catching prey: otters, barracuda, sharks, piranha

Fur to keep it warm and dry: river otter

Communicate using sounds: macaws (or any bird), frogs or drum (fish)

Can sting: sting rays

“Fishes” for its food: alligator snapping turtle

Looks like a leaf or rock: Suriname toad, seahorses, box turtle, alligator snapping turtle

Has flippers: penguins, sea turtles

Hides in rocks or crevices: green moray eel, pancake tortoise

Buries in the sand: southern and freshwater stingrays, softshell turtle

Lives in a shell: nautilus, snails, turtles, mussels, crabs

Is endangered or threatened: any animal in Discovery Hall, sea turtle, hyacinth macaws

Swims fast: barracuda, gentoo penguin

Long and slender to fit in holes/crevices: green moray eel, snakes, salamanders

Wings for flying: any bird except penguins, butterflies

Strong beak for cracking nuts: macaws

Protects itself in an unusual way: porcupine fish inflate their body and extend spines, firebelly toads show off their bright red belly as a warning and parrot fish cover their body in mucus at night while they sleep

Animal Favorite: Answers vary depending upon the animal chosen