



Animal Adaptations

Classroom Program for Grades 1+2



We play hide and seek as a fun game, but many animals play hide and seek to survive! This interactive program uses pictures, props and live animals to introduce students to the many colorful ways animals blend into their environment. Everyone gets a chance to create their own camouflaged critter to take home.

Lesson: Learn about protective coloration of animals and their struggle for survival.

Conservation Message: All life on Earth exists as part of an ecosystem.



Curriculum Objectives:

Tennessee students will apply the following **Grade Level Expectations** for Science:

- Distinguish between living and non-living things in an environment.
- Investigate the relationship between an animal's characteristics and the features of the environment where it lives.
- Recognize that living things have parts that work together.
- Identify basic ways that plants and animals depend on each other.
- Recognize that animals eat plants or other animals for food.

Georgia students will apply the following **Science Performance Standards**:

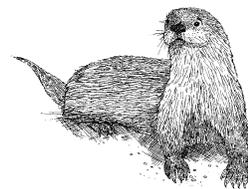
- Students will sort living organisms and non-living materials into groups by observable physical attributes.
- Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals.

Alabama students will apply the following **Science Course of Study Content Standards**:

- Compare size, shape, structure, and basic needs of living things.
- Describe survival traits of living things, including color, shape, size, texture and covering.
- Identify characteristics of animals, including behavior, size and body covering.

All students will apply the following **National Science Education Content Standards**:

- Develop an understanding of characteristics of organisms.
- Develop an understanding of organisms and their environments.



Visit the Tennessee Aquarium Education Department's website

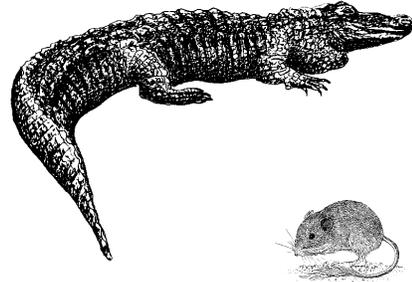
<http://www.tnaqua.org/Education>



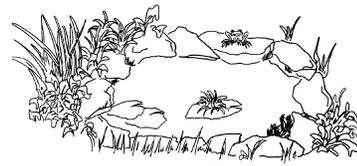
Animal Adaptations Activity Sheet

Match the vocabulary words to the appropriate pictures.

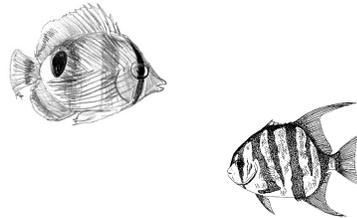
1. **Adaptation** - any change in an animal, such as a beaver's flat tail, that makes it better able to survive in its habitat.



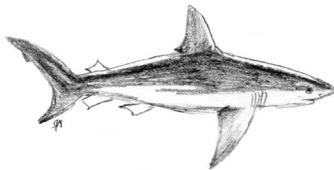
2. **Camouflage** - blending in with the surroundings to hide.



3. **Countershading** - color pattern found in sharks, frogs and hawks where it is dark on the top of the body and lends to a lighter color on the bottom and hawks where it is dark on the top of the body and blends to a lighter color on the bottom.



4. **Disruptive Coloration** - color patterns such as the zebra's stripes or the jaguar's spots that help break up the body shape, making it harder to recognize in the environment.



5. **Eyespot** - round dark spot resembling an eye found on many animals such as fish, turtles, and insects and is used to confuse predators many animals such as fish, turtles and insects and is used to confuse predators.

6. **Habitat** - a place where an animal lives and can find food, water, shelter and space.



7. **Predator** - an animal that eats another animal; alligators, eagles, bears, snakes and frogs are all predators.

8. **Prey** - An animal such as a rat or mouse that gets eaten by another animal.

