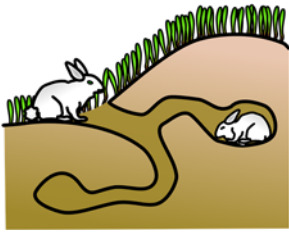


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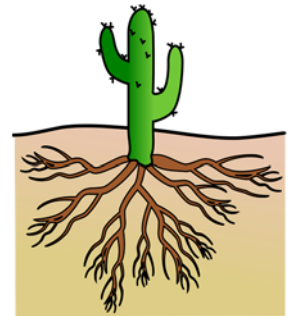
Plant and Animal Adaptations



Adaptations are what helps plants and animals live in their environment.

They are special features or traits to help them to survive. For this reason, that is why we only see certain types of plants and animals in one habitat and not in the other. Think of the alligator that has a sleek body to help it swim, and sharp teeth and a big mouth to help it catch its food. Could this

alligator survive in the desert? the polars? Of course not, it has special features that help it adapt to the habitat that it was born in. Would you see a cactus in the arctic? No, the cactus has shallow but long spreading roots as its special feature to adapt to its dry environment. The desert is often a hot and dry habitat and plants and animals need to be able to store and thrive on very little water. The grasslands have hot summers and cold winters, animals burrow down to escape the cold winters and their prey, grasses sway with the wind and are flexible. In the tropical rainforest, it's very wet and the plants have leaves and stems that allow the water to run off, many animals can live high up in the trees to help them escape their predators. In the deciduous forests, the trees lose their leaves for the winter to survive the cold winters, this allows them to store more energy. Some animals will burrow, other animals hibernate or migrate which is how they adapt. In the wetlands, many animals adapt by being able to swim and crawl/run and the plants are able to absorb lots of moisture. In the oceans, many animals are equipped fins to help them swim, they need minimal oxygen to breath and the plants thrive in a wet environment. Think about how you adapt to your environment. When it gets really cold out, what do you do? When it gets hot out what do you do? How to the animals around you use the rocks, soils and plants? Their special features will help them locate food, escape predators and it helps some build shelters. Think of different animals, how do their claws help them? why are there so many different types of beaks on birds? why so some have feathers and others have scales? All of these special features help animals to survive their habitats.



Questions:

- 1 In your own words, explain what adaptations to the habitat means.
- 2 Explain how you adapt to your environment.
- 3 Think of three animals and explain what features they have to help them to adapt to their habitat.
- 4 Explain what features a polar bear has to survive in the polar habitat.
- 5 Why do you think an alligator couldn't survive in the desert?