

A STEM in the Park Take Home Activity



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Amazing Animal Adaptations

Reptiles, Mammals, Birds, and every group of animals all have amazing adaptations to help them survive in their habitats. Some adaptations are very specialized to fill an exact need. Humans use tools and gadgets around their homes to do special jobs as well.

What You Need

- A variety of tools and gadgets
- A copy of this activity card



What To Do

Find items throughout your home to complete the adaptation table below:

| Household Item | Animal Body Part |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Example: Pliers</i> | <i>Crab Claw</i> |
| Scissors | |
| Tweezers | |
| | Kangaroo Pouch |
| Strainer | |
| | Webbed Feet |

Continued on back

Observe....

Watch out your window at home or at a nearby park to see how local animals are adapted to the area we live in.

| Come up with three of your own! | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Learn...

What is an adaptation? An adaptation is a variation in an animal population that may give certain animals an advantage in surviving, reproducing and passing on traits to their offspring. Adaptations are great in that they allow animals to live and thrive in their habitat. Humans have the ability to put on a coat in the winter to keep us warm but animals cannot deliberately change to better survive in an environment. If an animal's habitat changes drastically, they are unable to adapt quickly. This is why it is important for humans to take care of the environment and protect animals that cannot protect themselves.

Investigate...

Visit the Toledo Zoo and pay special attention to how animals in other parts of the world, such as the Arctic or Africa, have adaptations that help them survive in those habitats.

This activity is brought to you by



For more information visit the Zoo at ToledoZoo.org