

# Animal adaptations

Outstanding Science Year 6 - Evolution and inheritance - OS6C007

National Curriculum Statutory Requirements

6C3 - identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

## Learning Objective



I can explain how some animals are adapted to their environment.

Me:   

Teacher:   

## Adaptations

All organisms, including animals, possess adaptations. Adaptations are traits (features) which make an individual more likely to survive and reproduce. Individuals with beneficial adaptations tend to survive and pass them on to their offspring, while individuals without them tend not to reproduce. This can cause population to develop new traits and change over time. This process is called evolution by natural selection.

Adaptations can bring many different benefits. Some adaptations make an animal better at avoiding predators. Some make an animal better at obtaining food. Others give an animal better protection from extreme hot or cold.

## Activity

Look at the animals on the following pages. Identify three adaptations for each animal. Describe each adaptation and explain how it provided a survival advantage to the animal. There is a blank sheet at the end for you to research and describe an animal of your own choice. You could find out more about the animals using the internet or information books. There is an example opposite.

## Common Chimpanzee



### Description of adaptation:

Opposable thumbs

### Survival advantage:

Opposable thumbs allow the chimpanzee to easily grasp and manipulate objects in its environment, such as food, tree branches, and even tools.

### Description of adaptation:

Coat of hair

### Survival advantage:

Fur gives the chimpanzee some protection from damage. It also acts as an insulator, keeping in heat and maintaining body temperature.

## Discussion

Evolution by natural selection is when beneficial traits build up in a population over time. Why don't harmful traits build up in a population over time?

## Polar Bear

Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

Survival advantage

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## Barn Owl

Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

Survival advantage

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## Penguin

Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

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Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation

Survival advantage

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Description of adaptation
Survival advantage

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Survival advantage

