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NAME _____

Animal Adaptations: What Are They?

PRE-TEST

Pre-Test

Directions: This short quiz will help you find out how much you know about animal adaptations. Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with words from the list at the bottom of this page. Note that some of the words may be used more than once.

1. Animals' _____ can adapt along with their behavior.
2. Herbivores prefer to eat _____ .
3. Camouflage helps animals to _____ into their surroundings.
4. Adaptations are a matter of _____ and not choice.
5. Adaptations help animals _____ in their environments.

blend
bodies
chance
fail
meat
other animals
plants
survive
temperature

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Post-Test

Directions: This quiz will help you find out how much you have learned about adaptations and how they help animals to survive. Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with words from the list at the bottom of the page. Note that some of the terms may be used more than once.

1. _____ is the blending of animals into their surroundings.
2. Carnivores prefer to eat _____ .
3. Adaptation is a matter of chance, not _____ .
4. When we talk about adaptation we are talking about _____ .
5. Along with their bodies, animals' _____ also can adapt.

behavior

camouflage

choice

meat

plants

warning coloration

reflex

relaxing

survival

vegetables

Animal Adaptations: What Are They?

Animal Adaptations Video Quiz-Game

Directions: Now it's time for you to play the Animal Adaptations Video Quiz-Game. The Quiz is fun, and it's a great way for you to show how much you know about animal adaptations.

There are five questions. I'll start each one by thinking of something that has to do with adaptations. Then I'll give you some clues. After you hear them, decide what I'm thinking about, and then write your answer.

1) I'm thinking about what scientists call animals, such as this little prong-horn, that have broad grinding teeth, and that eat plants.

What kind of animals am I thinking about? _____

2) This time I'm thinking about a kind of adaptation that poison frogs use, and that, warns predators to leave them alone.

What am I thinking about? _____

3) Now I'm thinking about a word that describes the specialized features, or characteristics, that help animals to survive.

What word am I thinking about? _____

Now we're going to play the Quiz Game a little differently. For the next two questions I'll read you a sentence, and then you'll supply the missing last word.

4) Adaptations happen by chance, and not by _____ .

5) Some adaptations are physical while others involve _____ .

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Useful Websites

Directions: Here some web sites that contain lots of interesting information about animals. Many of these sites also provide pictures and contain links to other useful sites that will provide examples of animal adaptations.

FISH:

www.montereybayaquarium.org

Monterey Bay Aquarium (Monterey, California): The website of one of the world's finest aquariums.

www.aqua.org

National Aquarium in Baltimore (Baltimore, Maryland): Another fine aquarium based website.

www.mote.org

Mote Marine Laboratory (Sarasota, Florida): This site is run by one of the world's premier marine research institutions.

REPTILES:

www.cincyzoo.org/

Cincinnati Zoo: Nice gallery of animal images. Endangered species list with illustrations and descriptions. Links to conservation sites.

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology

The Florida Museum of Natural History Herpetology Home Page: An absolutely fabulous resource for students and teachers alike.

www.tortoise.org/

California Turtle and Tortoise Club: Full of information about the care and conservation of different kinds of turtles. Includes a nice photo gallery.

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology

The Florida Museum of Natural History Herpetology Home Page: An absolutely fabulous resource for students and teachers alike. Do not overlook this one. Includes information, pictures, and links to other useful sites.

www.crocodilian.com/

Crocodilians Natural History & Conservation Site: A wonderful site for those interested in alligators, crocodiles, and their relatives. Contains a helpful set of links to other sites.

BIRDS:

www.ornith.cornell.edu

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: This fabulous site is a "must" for anybody interested in birds, includes great bird pictures and useful links.

www.americanbirding.org

American Birding Association: Another fine site rich in resources. Includes a special section for young birders.

www.audubon.org

National Audubon Society: A wonderful site for teachers and students alike. Special sections for both teachers and students and includes many useful links.

MAMMALS:

www.nature-net.com/bears

The Bear Den: Full of information about and pictures of bears and includes a special section just for kids.

www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/buffalo/index/html

American Buffalo-Spirit of a Nation: By the producers of the popular Nature series on PBS. Includes pictures and information about the great American symbol.

www.boomerwolf.com

The Boomer Wolf Web Site: A wonderful site that includes facts about wolves and their relatives with games and pictures.

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov>

National Marine Mammal Laboratory: This fine site is a great place to find information about and pictures of such marine mammals as seals, sea lions, and sea otters.

INVERTEBRATES:

www.photolib.noaa.gov/reef/floinvrt1.html

Florida Reef's Invertebrates - The Coral Kingdom: This is a wonderful site. It hosts a great collection of pictures showing invertebrates commonly found in Florida reef ecosystems.

www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/factsheets/

Pests in the Northeastern United States: Produced by experts at Cornell University this is a "must" site for students and teachers who are interested in insects. Packed with information and pictures.

www.missouri.edu/~bioscish/intro.html

Introduction to Arthropod Anatomy: A wonderful site for those interested in arthropods and how their bodies are put together.

www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov:80/tw/inverts.html

Notes on Major Marine Invertebrates, by Dr. Hugh F. Williams: This is a truly useful site for students and teachers who are interested in ocean living invertebrates. Packed with information and illustrations.

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Vocabulary Review

Directions: Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with terms from the list of definitions at the bottom of this page. Note that some of them may be used more than once. Also, some of the sentences may be correctly completed using more than one of the terms.

1. Wolves, bears, and other meat eaters are _____.
2. Plant eating animals such as pronghorns are _____.
3. An animal's _____ can help it blend into its surroundings.
4. Badgers are _____ that feed on prairie dogs and other small animals.
5. Herding together by buffalo is a kind of _____.

behavior - The actions displayed by living things towards their environment.

camouflage - Coloring that helps to conceal animals by letting them blend into their environment.

carnivore - An animal that feeds mainly on other animals.

herbivore - An animal that feeds mainly on plants.

predator - An animal that lives by capturing and eating other animals.

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Field Observation Form

Directions: First, choose an animal that interests you and that you can observe. Next, watch it carefully and note some of the adaptations that help it survive. For example, if you choose a fish you could watch how its fins help to push it through the water and keep it upright. Next, record your observations on the form below.

Animal Observed: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Weather Conditions: _____

Adaptation(s) you observed: _____

How the adaptation(s) you observed help the animal survive:
