

What Is Adaptation?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

habitat [HAB•i•tat] the place where a living thing lives

Habitat and *home* begin with the same sound. Your home—and your community—are your *habitat*, the place where your needs are met.

adaptation [ad•uhp•TAY•shuhn] a characteristic that helps living things survive

Adaptation and *adapt* are in the same word family. When you adapt to something, you change in order to fit in or get what you need. An *adaptation* is the change you made in order to adapt.

instinct [IN•stinkt] behaviors that animals know how to do without being taught

Instinct contains the word *in*. *Instincts* are behaviors that are built in. For example, no one needs to teach a puppy to drink milk from its mother because this behavior is an *instinct*.

What Is Adaptation?

Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. A living thing must be able to meet all its needs within its habitat.
2. Only certain kinds of living things can live in certain habitats; a fish needs a water habitat.
3. Plants and animals have adaptations that help them survive in their habitats.
4. The arctic hare's thick fur is an adaptation that keeps it warm in the cold habitat where it lives.
5. Physical adaptations are differences in the bodies of plants and animals.
6. Thorns, sharp teeth, and camouflage that keep an animal hidden are physical adaptations.
7. Instincts, or behaviors that animals do without being taught, are behavioral adaptations.
8. Migration, moving to different locations at certain times of the year, is an instinct.
9. Hibernation, a long period when an animal's body processes slow down, is an instinct.
10. Tadpoles and frogs do not compete because they live in different places; this is an adaptation.