

CURIOSITY AT HOME

HABITAT MATCH



A habitat is the place that an animal lives. Wherever there is food, water, and shelter, animals have evolved traits to face the unique challenges of living in those environments. We call these traits adaptations. Some adaptations are physical, like color on a butterfly, but some are behavioral, like hibernation in bears to save energy in winter. Let's take a look at some animal adaptations that help animals in their habitats!

MATERIALS

- 6 animal cards (on following pages)
- 6 habitat cards (on following pages)
- 11 adaptation cards (on following pages)
- Map of the area you live (digital or print)
- Scissors
- Science notebook or paper
- Something to write with

PROCEDURE

- Cut out the animal/habitat/adaptation cards.
- On each habitat card, write down two or three words to describe that habitat
- Look at a map of where you live. Where might you find each of these habitats?
- Take the animal cards and try to match them to their habitats. What clues about the animal's body help you know which habitat(s) they live in?



Experiment continued on next page...



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HABITAT MATCH

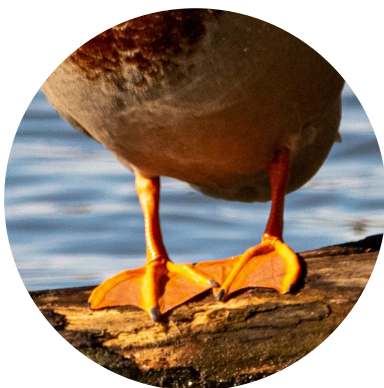


EXPLORE MORE

Choose another habitat and make a list in your science notebook of animals that live there. Name some adaptations that each animal has to help it live in that habitat.

DID YOU KNOW?

This activity uses examples of adaptations for heat, snow, cold and water. Large ears are an important way of getting rid of excess body heat, and are found on animals like rabbits and elephants. Large feet spread an animal's weight around so it can walk on top of the snow without sinking, and furry feet can help an animal keep from losing too much body heat to the snow. Webbed feet can help an animal to swim more easily and oily, waterproof hair can keep that animal warm and dry while they swim.



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ANIMAL CARDS

Cut each one out.

Jackrabbit



Snowshoe Hare



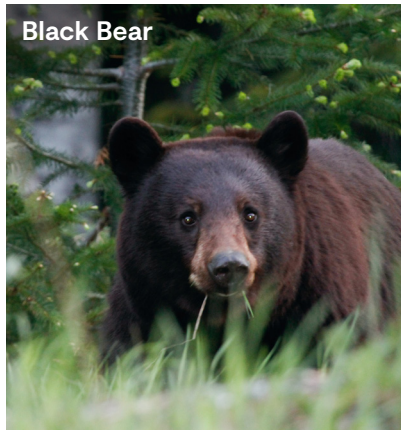
WA Ground Squirrel



River Otter



Black Bear



Beaver



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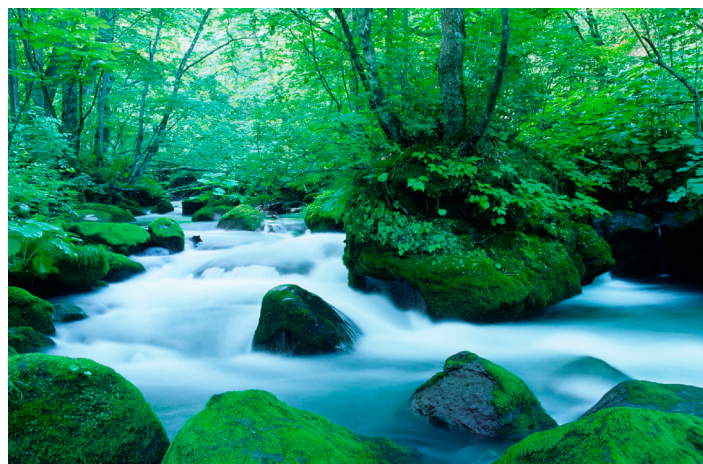


HABITAT CARDS

Cut each one out.



DESERT:



RIVER/CREEK:



MOUNTAIN:



ALL 3 HABITATS:



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ADAPTATION CARDS

Cut each one out.

Estivation (similar to hibernation)	Nocturnal
Furry feet	Water-resistant hairs
Hibernation	Water-resistant hairs
Large ears	Webbed feet
Large feet	Webbed feet
Lives underground	



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3–5 GRADE EXPLORATION

Explore the following questions and write your observations in your science notebook.

- Compare the two types of rabbits on the list. What about them is the same? What about them is different? How could those differences help each rabbit in their habitat?
- Some of the animals we looked at have special adaptations to their feet to help them move around their habitat. Can you think of any other types of animals with special feet?
- Camouflage is when an animal uses color or patterns to hide in their habitat. Which animals on this list use camouflage? What other animals can you think of that use camouflage in their habitats?



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