



Animal Adaptations

Summer

Adaptations are structures or behaviors that help animals meet their needs.. All animals need food. to survive. but different animals get their food in different ways. The three animals below are predators.They get their food by hunting other animals. What special adaptations can you observe that help them be successful hunters?

Wolf



Adaptations

Eagle



Adaptations

Marten



Adaptations

Which animal do you think has the best sense of smell? _____

Which animal do you think has the best sense of hearing? _____

Which animal do you think has the best sight? _____

The red squirrel gets its food from plants. It needs to protect itself from predators. What adaptations would help the squirrel stay safe?



Which predator do you think has the best adaptations to successfully hunt the red squirrel?

Why do you think that? _____

Look carefully at this landscape. Do you think there is more food here for the squirrel or for the wolf?

Why do you think that? _____

Fall



Animals interact with their environment in many ways. Sometimes their behaviors affect the environment. Observe the beaver in the fall diorama.

What is it doing? _____

What need do you think it is meeting with this behavior? _____

What adaptations is it using? _____

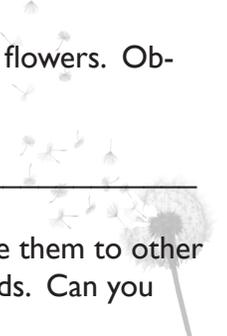
How is its activity changing the environment? _____

What other plants or animals might benefit from this change? _____

What other animals in the fall do you see that are changing their environment? _____

Plants also have adaptations that help them to survive. In the summer diorama, there are many flowers. Observe the plants in the Fall diorama. What do you see that is different about the plants here?

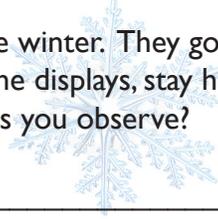
Plants have different strategies to spread their seeds. Some seeds are eaten by animals that take them to other places. Some seeds are carried by the wind. Find examples of each and draw the plant and seeds. Can you identify the plants?



Plant that makes seeds for animals to eat	Plant that makes seeds carried by the wind

Winter

Some animals choose to leave Alaska during the winter. They go where it is warmer and there is more food available. Other animals, like most you see in the displays, stay here. They have different adaptations that help them survive. What are some of the adaptations you observe?



Of all the animals you see in the exhibits, which animal would you most like to be in the wintertime here in Alaska? Why?

If I could design the perfect Alaskan animal, it would have...

the fur/feathers of a _____

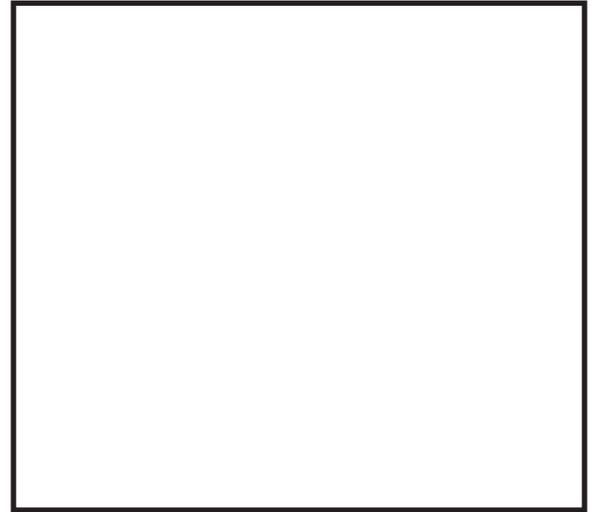
the feet of a _____

the ears of a _____

the home of a _____

the food of a _____

other features _____



I would call it _____

Draw a picture of your perfect animal here.

All living things depend on each other. Find examples of plants and animals that need each other.

The _____ needs _____.

The _____ needs _____.

The _____ needs _____.

People also depend on other living things and their environment. They use plants and animals to meet their needs for food, clothing and shelter. Find examples of each in the displays.

Food from plants	Food from animals	Clothing

Alaska is famous for being wild. Some people think that wilderness is a natural resource. They think that people need wilderness to be happy. All these exhibits show views of wilderness. Find your favorite view and spend some time just quietly listening and observing. Imagine you are really there.

Describe what you see, hear and smell.

Describe how this place makes you feel.

Describe how this place would look in a different season.

Describe the things you would do with your family if you visited this place.

