



Amazing Adaptations

Field Trip Packet

NEW ENGLAND
Franklin Park Zoo • Stone Zoo



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How to Use this Document:

This introduction to Adaptations can be used to introduce the topic to your group, on-site during your field trip visit, or to wrap up your unit on adaptations! These activities are geared towards learners in Elementary School.





What do Animals Need to Survive?

Every animal needs five things to stay happy and healthy. Can you name what they are?

Food, water, air, shelter, and space

How do Animals Meet Each of Their Needs?

Every species has unique 'adaptations' that they use to help them survive and meet their needs.

Physical Vs. Behavioral Adaptations

Physical Adaptations are things on an animal's body, or how their body works.

Jaguars are carnivores, and will sneak up on their prey. Their spotted coats help them with stealth, and their sharp, powerful canine teeth help to rip and tear through meat.



Behavioral Adaptations are things an animal will do, or a way they will act.

Ring-tailed lemurs are very social. They make many different vocalizations to communicate in their groups of up to 30 individuals. Living in groups helps them stay safe from predators, and raise their young.





Amazing Adaptations

Classroom Extension Activity

1. Learn more about the animals that call Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo home by using the following websites:

Franklin Park Zoo <https://zoonewengland.org/franklin-park-zoo/our-animals>

Stone Zoo <https://www.zoonewengland.org/stone-zoo/our-animals/>

2. Have students find adaptations for the following:

- Finding food
- Hiding from predators
- Surviving weather

3. Discuss:

- What challenges would this animal face in the particular environment it lives in?
- Would the adaptations you identified be as helpful if the environment changed? Why or why not?



CREATE A CRITTER!

Now that you've learned about all sorts of different adaptations, it's time create your own critter! Your critter can have any adaptations you think would help it survive in it's habitat. Answer the questions below, then draw a picture of the critter you've created!

My Critter's Name: _____

Where my Critter Lives: _____

My Critter Eats: _____

My Critter Stays Safe by: _____



ADAPTATION DETECTIVES

Can you find animals that have these unique adaptations? Draw or write your response. How might this adaptation help them to survive?



Camouflage	Shell	Long Legs	Prehensile Tail
Large Ears	Venom or Poison	Spines or Quills	Nocturnal Behavior
Loud Vocalizations	Webbed Feet	Warning Coloration	Long Beak
Large Snout	Thick Fur	Social Behavior	Sharp Claws



BEHAVIOR BINGO

What behaviors can you find at the Zoo? Check off all you can find!
How might that behavior help animals survive in nature?

<p>Eating Comiendo</p> 	<p>Flying Volando</p> 	<p>Sleeping Dormiendo</p> 	<p>Running Corriendo</p> 
<p>Grooming Peinando</p> 	<p>Swimming Nadando</p> 	<p>Pecking Picoteando</p> 	<p>Walking Caminando</p> 
<p>Making Noise Haciendo Ruido</p> 	<p>Climbing Colgando</p> 	<p>Drinking Tomando</p> 	<p>Relaxing Relajando</p> 
<p>Sniffing Oliendo</p> 	<p>Hopping Saltando</p> 	<p>Digging Escarbar</p> 	<p>Playing Relajando</p> 



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BINGO DE COMPORTAMIENTO

¿Qué comportamientos puedes encontrar en el zoológico? ¡Marca todos los que encuentres! ¿Cómo podría ese comportamiento ayudar a los animales a sobrevivir en la naturaleza?

<p>Comiendo Eating</p> 	<p>Volando Flying</p> 	<p>Dormiendo Sleeping</p> 	<p>Corriendo Running</p> 
<p>Peinando Grooming</p> 	<p>Nadando Swimming</p> 	<p>Picoteando Pecking</p> 	<p>Caminando Walking</p> 
<p>Haciendo Ruido Making Noise</p> 	<p>Colgando Climbing</p> 	<p>Tomando Drinking</p> 	<p>Relajando Relaxing</p> 
<p>Oliendo Sniffing</p> 	<p>Saltando Hopping</p> 	<p>Escarbar Digging</p> 	<p>Relajando Playing</p> 



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Amazing Adaptations: S.H.E.L.

Directions

There are four “stops” in this activity at various points in the Zoo. This will allow your participants to have a mix of learning and exploration as you work your way through the Zoo.

When you reach an animal habitat with an associated activity page, your participants will go through four different prompts. These prompts encourage conversation!

The Aspects of S.H.E.L.

Share: This prompt will ask the group a question that doesn’t require any background knowledge! This allows participants to openly share and talk with one another.

Habitat: This prompt encourages the group to make observations about things they are noticing in the animals’ habitat. This allows participants to keep their conversations going with a bit more guidance.

Explore: This prompt will ask a question that encourages the group to explore the signs at the habitat. Participants should be able to find the answer to the question on one of the signs.

Learn: This is a fun fact that cannot be found on the signs. This acts as a way to transition you from the habitat to your next stop.



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Share: Do Prairie Dogs remind you of an animal you would find around Massachusetts?

Habitat: Look around the Prairie Dog habitat! Our Zookeepers like to scatter or hide their food to encourage them to *forage*, which is a natural behavior. Can you find any places where there is food scattered or where there might be food hidden?

Explore: Prairie Dogs have a behavioral adaptation that helps keep their colony safe! When they are on the lookout for trouble, what does their alert posture look like?

Learn: Home sweet home! Prairie Dogs have many small burrows which seem random to us, but the Prairie Dogs have it all planned out! Their underground



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burrows have spaces for sleeping, going to the bathroom, and even a space just for babies.



Share: What do you already know about gorillas?

Habitat: Look around the Western Lowland Gorilla habitat! Gorillas are strong climbers; can you find 2 areas where they get to climb?

Explore: As male gorillas grow up, they start to develop a different color hair on their back which shows that they are adults! What color is that hair?

Learn: Gorillas are primates, like people, but we have very different ways of showing how we feel. When we smile and show our teeth, that tells someone else we are feeling happy! When gorillas smile and show their teeth, that could mean they are feeling fearful or even aggressive. A neutral or even “frowny face” shows us that the gorilla is feeling relaxed.



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Share: Andean Condors are one of the largest birds! What other really big birds have you seen?

Habitat: Look around the Condor habitat! Condors have very large wings. What do you notice about this space that helps them move their wings safely?

Explore: Andean Condors have a wingspan that is so large, they are able to soar for over 100 miles without flapping their wings! How big is the condor's wingspan?

Learn: Andean Condors have no feathers on their head because they are scavengers! That means they are eating a lot of leftover foods that other carnivores, or meat eaters, have left behind. Since that food is left behind, it can get yucky! Having no feathers on their head means that they can easily clean off.

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Share: Bactrian Camels are found in the deserts! Can you name any other animals that are found in the desert?

Habitat: Look around the Camel habitat. Do you see their silver water bowl? That water bowl is called a *Nelson Waterer* and it is special because it fills up with water automatically when the Camel take a drink from it.

Explore: Bactrian Camels have thick woolly winter coats that help to keep them warm in the winter. What happens to their fur in the summer?

Learn: Camels have some amazing *physical adaptations* that help them to survive in the desert, including long eyelashes and ear hairs to help block out any blowing sand. They even have the ability to seal their nostrils to keep sand out of their nose!

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Share: Have you ever seen a Black Bear in the wild before? If so, where?

Habitat: Look around the Black Bear habitat! Our Zookeepers like to scatter or hide the bear's food to encourage them to *forage*, which is a natural behavior. Can you find any places where there is food scattered or where there might be food hidden?

Explore: Black Bears have some amazing *physical adaptations*, like their long, curved claws. What is something they use their claws for?

Learn: Black Bears have an *excellent* sense of smell! In fact, they can smell food from over two miles away! If you ever go camping in an area where there might be bears, it's important to store any food or trash in a secure container to ensure that you don't attract them to your campsite.



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Share: What do you already know about Otters?

Habitat: Look around the River Otter habitat! The Otters have a few places where they can find shelter. Can you find at least two?

Explore: River Otters are well adapted for life on land *and* life in the water. Adaptations like claws, webbed toes, and smooth fur help them survive. When Otters are underwater, how long can they hold their breath for? When Otters are on land, how fast can they run?

Learn: Homes for rent! River Otters rarely dig their own dens. Instead, they will typically live in abandoned beaver lodges, hollowed trees or burrows left behind by other animals.

Amazing Adaptations: S.H.E.L.



Share: Whooping Cranes have long legs! Do they remind you of another animal that you saw at the Zoo? If so, what animal?

Habitat: Look around the Whooping Cranes habitat! Whooping cranes have very large wings. Our Whooping Cranes cannot fly, but still like to stretch their wings, what do you notice about this space that helps them move their wings safely?

Explore: Whooping cranes are listed as an *endangered species*, which means there are not many left in the wild. How did they become endangered?

Learn: *Whoop Whoop!* Whooping Cranes get their name from the loud call that they do which can be heard miles away. They make this noise for a few reasons. One might be a “duet” between a bonded male and female, another might be a defensive call to protect their nest, lastly, it may be a way to attract a mate.

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Share: Snow Leopards are considered a “big cat!” Other big cats include tigers, lions, jaguars, and leopards. Do you have a favorite “big cat?”

Habitat: Look around the Snow Leopard habitat. Do you see their silver water bowl? That water bowl is called a *Nelson Waterer* and it is special because it fills up with water automatically when the snow leopards take a drink from it.

Explore: Snow Leopards got the nickname “Ghosts of the Mountain” thanks to their excellent camouflage! Their camouflage is so good that scientists are having a hard time tracking them in the wild! What is the name of the mountain range where Snow Leopards can be found?

Learn: If the snow leopard in the Olympics for the long jump event, they would win gold! Snow Leopards can leap up to 50 feet! That’s around the length of a school bus!