



# Animal Diversity Around the World

Week 29 — Monday | Animals in Different Habitats

## Reading Time

Just like plants, animals around the world have incredible variety, and they have developed amazing ways to survive in their environments. Scientists call these survival features **adaptations**. An adaptation is any physical feature or behavior that helps an animal survive and reproduce in its habitat. From thick fur in cold climates to webbed feet in water, every adaptation has a specific job.

In **desert habitats**, animals face extreme heat during the day and cold at night. Camels have humps that store fat (not water!) which their bodies can use for energy and water when food is scarce. Desert reptiles like lizards have scaly skin that prevents water loss, and many are active at dawn or dusk to avoid the hottest part of the day. Some desert animals, like kangaroo rats, get all the water they need from the seeds they eat and never drink water at all!

In **arctic and tundra habitats**, animals face freezing temperatures, long winters with little sunlight, and very short growing seasons. Polar bears have thick fur and a layer of fat called **blubber** that keeps them warm in temperatures below zero. Their large, wide feet act like snowshoes, preventing them from sinking into deep snow. Arctic foxes change their fur color from brown in summer to white in winter, giving them camouflage against predators and prey. Penguins live in Antarctica and have streamlined bodies and flippers for swimming, plus layers of feathers that trap warm air close to their skin.

In **ocean habitats**, animals live in water ranging from warm tropical coral reefs to freezing deep water. Fish have **gills** that extract oxygen from water instead of lungs. Many ocean animals have **streamlined bodies** to move quickly through water. Sea turtles have flippers for swimming long distances. Deep sea creatures like anglerfish have glowing lures to attract prey in complete darkness. Coral reefs are home to thousands of species of fish, each with unique colors and shapes to blend in or stand out among the coral.

## Reading Questions

1. What is an adaptation?

2. What do camel humps actually store?

3. How do polar bear feet help them in the snow?

4. Compare desert animal adaptations with arctic animal adaptations. How does each help the animal survive its environment?

## Vocabulary Grid

Write a definition or draw a picture for each word.



**Adaptation**



**Blubber**



**Camouflage**



**Gills**



**Streamlined**



**Nocturnal**

## Match the Animal to Its Habitat

Draw a line or write the letter connecting each animal to where it lives.

| Animal                               | Habitat       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| A polar bear hunting seals on ice.   | Desert        |
| A lizard basking in the hot sand.    | Arctic/Tundra |
| A sea turtle swimming through coral. | Ocean         |
| An arctic fox with white winter fur. | Rainforest    |

## Animal Adaptations Chart

Fill in the chart to compare how different animals adapt to their environments.

| Animal     | Habitat | Physical Adaptation | Behavioral Adaptation |
|------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Camel      |         |                     |                       |
| Polar Bear |         |                     |                       |
| Arctic Fox |         |                     |                       |
| Sea Turtle |         |                     |                       |

## Draw Animals from Different Habitats

Draw one animal from each habitat. Label at least one adaptation for each.

*Desert animal — label one adaptation.*

*Arctic animal — label one adaptation.*

*Ocean animal — label one adaptation.*

## Think About It

If a sea turtle was placed in a desert, what challenges would it face? What adaptations would it need to survive there?

## ✓ True or False — Circle Your Answer

- ☐ 1. An adaptation helps an animal survive in its habitat.
- ☐ 2. Camel humps store water for long periods of time.
- ☐ 3. Blubber is a layer of fat that keeps animals warm.
- ☐ 4. Camouflage helps animals hide from predators or sneak up on prey.
- ☐ 5. Fish use lungs to breathe underwater.
- ☐ 6. Streamlined bodies help animals move quickly through water.
- ☐ 7. Nocturnal animals are most active during the day.
- ☐ 8. Arctic foxes change fur color for camouflage.

## Fill in the Blanks

**Word Bank:** adaptation blubber camouflage gills streamlined nocturnal hump flippers

- 1. A physical or behavioral feature that helps survival is an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. A thick layer of fat that insulates cold-weather animals is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. When an animal blends into its environment, it uses \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Fish use \_\_\_\_\_ to breathe underwater.
- 5. A body shaped for fast movement through water is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. Active at night and sleeping during the day means \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Camels store fat in their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Sea turtles and penguins use \_\_\_\_\_ to swim.

## Create Animal Habitat Cards

Use the chart below to plan 3 animal habitat cards. On each card, include the animal name, habitat, 3 adaptations, and a drawing.

| Animal Name | Habitat | 3 Adaptations |
|-------------|---------|---------------|
| Card 1      |         |               |
| Card 2      |         |               |
| Card 3      |         |               |

## Think About It

Pick any animal. Describe what it would look like if it had NO adaptations at all. Would it survive in the wild? Explain your answer.

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