



Vonders

#### Weekly Concept Adaptations

**Essential Question** What helps an animal survive?

ANALYSIS STATES

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(bkgd) NHPA/Stephen Dalton

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# Adapting to Survive

Hi, I'm a chameleon. Have you ever seen anyone guite like me? Here's how I have adapted to survive in my environment.

- See my skin color? I can change it. Changing my skin color helps to camouflage me from predators.
- My long tail can wrap around branches. How do you think that helps me?

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Write words you have learned about adaptation. Then talk with a partner about other animals and how they have adapted to survive.



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## Vocabulary

Use the picture and the sentences to talk with a partner about each word.



dribbles

It is hard to see the **camouflaged** insect because it blends in with the leaf.

How are the words camouflaged and hidden similar?



Water dribbles from the leaky faucet all night.

Name something else that dribbles.



The owl has an **extraordinary** ability to stare for a long time without blinking.

What is an antonym for extraordinary?



Some wild mushrooms can make you sick because they are poisonous.

What other things are poisonous?



The bobcat likes to **pounce** on fish in the river.

What other animals pounce?



A cheetah is a fierce **predator** that can catch most animals that it hunts.

Explain why a hawk is a predator.



The venus flytrap plant traps its **prey** inside its sticky leaves.

What is an antonym for prey?



Eric plucked his guitar strings, causing vibrations as the strings moved quickly back and forth.

What else can make vibrations?





Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

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#### d Genre • Expository Text

## Animal Adaptations

#### **Essential Question**

What helps an animal survive?

Read about ways different animals adapt to their environments.

What would you do if you saw a skunk raise his tail? If you knew anything about skunks, you would run in the opposite direction! Skunks have a built-in survival system. They can blast a **predator** with a horrible-smelling spray produced by the glands under their tails.

The special ways that animals have to survive are called adaptations. These include physical traits such as the skunk's spray and animals with bright colors and markings that warn predators that they are **poisonous**. Some animals can sense the smallest **vibrations** in the ground. Others hear sounds from miles away. An adaptation can also be a behavioral trait. An example of a behavioral trait would be birds that migrate south every winter to avoid harsh temperatures.



When a skunk turns and sprays a predator, the foul-smelling mist can travel up to 10 feet.

#### **Staying Warm**

Brrrr! Imagine living in a place where the average annual temperature is an **extraordinary** 10 to 20° F. Welcome to the Arctic tundra of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia, home of the caribou. To stay warm, caribou have two layers of fur and a thick layer of fat. They also have compact bodies. Only 4 or 5 feet long, caribou can weigh over 500 pounds.

The tip of the caribou's nose and mouth is called a muzzle. It is covered in short hair. This hair helps to warm the air before they inhale it into their lungs. It also helps to keep them warm as they push snow aside to find food.

#### **Finding Food**

Every day, a caribou eats over six pounds of lichen! Caribou have unusual stomachs. The stomach's four chambers are designed to digest lichen. It is one of the few foods they can find in the winter. Even so, caribou still have a tough time in the coldest part of



Lichen can grow in extreme temperatures.

winter when their food sources decline. That's why they travel from the tundra to a large forest area, where food is easier to find. When the melting snow **dribbles** into streams, they know that it is time to return up north.

#### Insects in Disguise

Look closely at the photo of the tree branch. Can you spot the insect? It is a phasmid. Some phasmids are known as leaf insects, or walking sticks. Phasmids look like leaves or twigs. These insects can change colors to really blend in with their surroundings. In this way, they are **camouflaged** from predators. It's as if they disappear from sight! These insects are nocturnal, which means that they are active at night. This is another adaptation that helps them avoid predators. It's hard to spot these insects in daylight, let alone at night.

This phasmid is called a walking stick because it looks like a stick with legs.

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The alligator's physical adaptations include its log-shaped body. Other animals have trouble spotting the motionless alligator in the water.

#### Water, Please!

In Florida's vast Everglades ecosystem, the dry season is brutal for many plants and animals. Alligators have found a way to survive these dry conditions in the freshwater marshes. They use their feet and snouts to clear dirt from holes in the limestone bedrock. When the ground dries up, the alligators can drink from their water holes.

Other species benefit from these water holes, too. Plants grow there. Other animals find water to survive the dry season. However, the animals that visit alligator holes become easy **prey**. The normally motionless alligator may **pounce** on them without warning. But luckily, alligators eat only a few times each month. Many animals take their chances and revisit the alligator hole when they need water. In the end, it's all about survival!

#### **Make Connections**

How do adaptations help an animal survive? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** 

Describe an animal adaptation that you have seen. **TEXT TO SELF** 

## Summarize

When you summarize, you retell the most important details in a paragraph or section of text. Summarize sections of "Animal Adaptations" to help you understand the information.



#### **Find Text Evidence**

Reread the section "Insects in Disguise" on page 138. Identify key details to summarize the section.



Phasmids are insects that can camouflage themselves to avoid predators. In addition, phasmids are nocturnal, which makes them difficult for predators to spot.





Reread "Water, Please!" on page 139 and summarize the section.

**FESS** 

## **Main Idea and Key Details**

The main idea is the most important point that the author makes in a text or a section of the text. Key details give important information to support the main idea.



#### **Find Text Evidence**

When I reread the section "Staying Warm" in "Animal Adaptations" on page 137, I can identify the key details. Then I can think about what those details have in common. Now I can figure out the main idea of the section.

#### Main Idea

Caribou adaptations help them survive the cold.

#### Detail

Caribou have two layers of fur and a thick layer of fat.

#### Detail

Short hair on their muzzles warms the air that they inhale.

#### Detail

Caribou have compact bodies that can weigh over 500 lbs.

All three key details support the main idea.

#### Your Turn

Reread the section "Insects in Disguise" on page 138. Find the key details and list them

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in the graphic organizer. Use these details to figure out the main idea.

**Go Digital!** Use the interactive graphic organizer

## **Expository Text**

"Animal Adaptations" is an expository text.

#### Expository text:

- · Gives facts and information about a topic.
- Includes text features.

#### **Find Text Evidence**

"Animal Adaptations" is an expository text. It gives me facts about how different animals have adapted to survive. Each section has a heading. The text also includes photographs and captions.



#### **Text Features** Photographs and Captions

Photographs illustrate what is in the text. Captions provide additional information.

**Headings** Headings tell what a section of text is mostly about.

#### Your Turn



Find and list two text features in "Animal Adaptations." Tell your partner what information you learned from each of these features.

## Prefixes

As you read "Animal Adaptations," you may come across a word that you don't know. Look for word parts such as prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word and changes the meaning of the word. Here are some common prefixes.

un- means "not " re- means "again" dis- means "opposite of"



#### Find Text Evidence

When I read the section "Staying Warm" on page 137 in "Animal Adaptations," I see the word extraordinary. First, I look at the separate word parts. I know that extra is a prefix that changes the meaning of ordinary. The prefix extra means "beyond."



Imagine living in a place where the average annual temperature is an extraordinary 10 to 20° F.

#### Your Turn



Use prefixes and context clues to figure out the meanings of the following words in "Animal Adaptations": unusual, page 138 disappear, page 138 revisit, page 139

#### **GCSS** Write to Sources

## Write About the Text



Pages 136-139



#### Introduce a Topic

I clearly stated the subject of my response.

#### Grammar

This is an example of a singular possessive noun.

**Grammar Handbook** See page 457. I answered the question: *How do extremes in temperature affect the food sources of the caribou? Use text evidence.* 

#### Student Model: Informative Text

Extreme winter temperatures in

the Arctic tundra make it difficult

for the caribou to find enough food.

A caribou's diet is made up of over

six pounds of lichen a day. It's one of

the only sources of food that they

can find in the winter.



Transitions However, even lichen is scarce I used the word during the coldest part of the *however* to link my ideas. winter. As a result, caribou travel to a large forest area where there is Logical Order more food. When temperatures get I presented my supporting details in warmer, the caribou return to the terms of cause and tundra. effect.

#### Your Turn

How do alligators survive Florida's dry season? Use text evidence.

**Go Digital!** Write your response online. Use your editing checklist.