

Animal Adaptations

SOL 3.4

By Ms. Weinberg

Have you ever wondered how animals are able to survive in the wild?



Animals have certain adaptations that help them to survive.



Think about the way you dress in the winter.



You don't wear your shorts and bathing suit when it's snowing outside!

You wear warm clothes, and maybe even a hat and mittens to protect yourself from the weather.



And what if you are having a snowball fight?

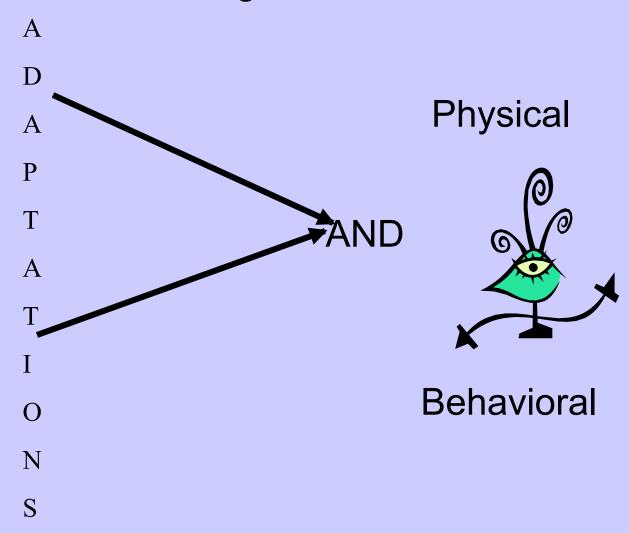


You probably run away from the person throwing at you, and maybe even try to sneak up on that person and throw some snowballs!

The way you dress in the winter, as well as the way that you run and hide from someone throwing snow at you are kinds of ...



We can separate **adaptations** into two categories:





Physical adaptations

are body structures that allow an animal to find and consume food, defend itself, and to reproduce its species.

Physical adaptations help an animal survive in its environment.

Physical adaptation

Camouflage (use of color in a surrounding)



The chameleon can change its color to match its surroundings. Can you do that?

Physical adaptation

Mimicry

(looking or sounding like another living organism)

The Viceroy butterfly uses mimicry to look like the Monarch butterfly. Can you tell them apart?



I'm the Monarch!

I'm the Viceroy!

Not poisonous



Physical adaptation



Chemical defenses (like venom, ink, sprays)

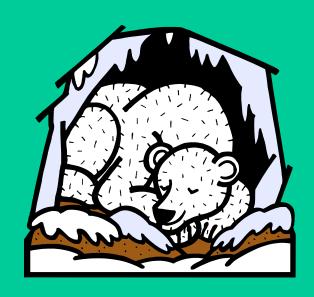
Physical adaptations

Body coverings & parts (claws, beaks, feet, armor plates, skulls, teeth)



The elephant's TRUNK is a physical adaptation that helps it to clean itself, eat, drink, and to pick things up.

Now let's learn about Behavioral Adaptations...



Behavioral Adaptations allow animals to respond to life needs.

Behavioral Adaptations are animals' actions.

Remember that Physical Adaptations are body structures.



Each organism has unique methods of adapting to its environment by means of different actions.

We can divide **Behavioral Adaptations** into two groups:

Instinctive



These behaviors happen naturally & don't have to be learned.

Learned



These behaviors must be taught.

Instinctive behaviors

=

happen naturally & don't need to be learned



Methods of gathering & storing food

Finding shelter

Defending oneself

Raising young

Migrating

Hibernating

Learned behaviors





Obtained by interacting with the environment and cannot be passed on to the next generation except by teaching.

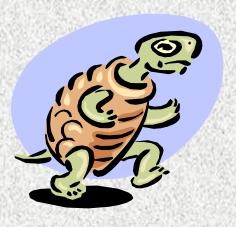
In this lesson, we have learned about animal adaptations.

There are 2 ways to describe adaptations:

Physical

and

Behavioral





Physical adaptations are body structures.

Some examples of physical adaptations are:

- **6** Camouflage
 - Mimicry
 - Chemical defenses
 - Body coverings & parts

Behavioral Adaptations are animals' actions.

Behavioral Adaptations can be Instinctive or Learned.



The next time you read about an animal in the wild, or when you see one on television, think about its adaptations....

