

Adapt and survive – right for the environment

The Earth is made of many different environments. Deserts, forests, frozen glaciers, the oceans, mountains and rivers are just some of the places where it is possible to find living things.

Animals seem to be adapted to the environment in which they live, so a polar bear is both well protected against the cold and is camouflaged against the Arctic's white snow. In the sea a shark has a body shape that is streamlined, allowing it to move quickly through the water. Birds of prey, such as eagles, have a body structure and shape, and very well developed vision that help them to spot and catch their prey while swooping from a great height.

If we look at the animals around us, we can see how well they are adapted to their environment.



Materials

- photographs of animals and their environments

Examples include:

- shark
- polar bear
- eagle
- bat
- scorpion
- orangutan
- yak
- crab
- beetle
- squid
- halibut

STUDENT SHEET

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Activity

- 1** Think of an animal that lives near your home. It is best to choose a wild animal rather than a pet.
- 2** Write down five adaptations that your animal has made to the environment it lives in.
- 3** **How does each of these adaptations help the animal survive in its environment?**
- 4** In small groups examine the pictures of animals you have been given.
- 5** Decide what sort of environment you would expect each animal to live in.
- 6** For each one, decide three things you can see in the photograph (a feature or characteristic) that shows you how it is adapted to its environment.



Iguana on a tree