

Ohio Animal Adaptations (Gr. K-3)

DESCRIPTION

All living things require the same basic needs in order to survive, but each species has unique adaptations to help them. Students will use animal beaks, skulls, and furs to figure out how local Ohio animals get their food in the wild. By comparing many Museum specimens, students will be able to identify the characteristics that help each species eat without being eaten themselves.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the basic needs of all living organisms.
- Observe animal beaks, skulls, and furs.
- Infer where in the environment each animal gets its food based on its physical characteristics.
- Identify key adaptations that help each animal survive.

OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS

Grade 1

Science: Life Science – Basic Needs of Living Things

- Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.

Grade 2

Science: Life Science – Interactions within Habitats

- All organisms alive today result from their ancestors, some of which may be extinct. Not all kinds of organisms that lived in the past are represented by animals that live today.

Grade 3

Science: Life Science – Behavior, Growth, and Changes

- Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.

Grade 4

Science: Life Science – Earth's Living History

- Changes to an organism's environment can sometimes be beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful.

Grade 5

Science: Life Science – Interactions within Ecosystems

- Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem.

Before your Program & How to Set Up your Classroom

- **Set-up requirements:**
 - **This program is run in 3 stations with one central location for discussion at the beginning and end of the program. Please provide at least 3 clear table spaces for the museum educator to set up the stations.**
 - **Please prepare to split your class into 3 roughly equal groups to rotate through the stations.**
- Please have student desks clear before the program begins.
- Please provide an empty desk or small table for the museum educator to set up display items.
- If booking multiple programs in a row, transitions will be easier if museum staff sets up in only one location.
- Introduce the vocabulary and resources provided below.

VOCABULARY

habitat – the place where an organism lives

adaptation – a body part, body covering, or behavior that helps an animal survive in its environment

shelter – something that an animal uses for its home which protects it from the elements

rostrum – the beak-like projection of an animal

wetland – lowland area, such as a marsh or swamp, that is saturated with moisture

food – material which provides animals with energy to survive

forest – a habitat containing a large growth of trees, plants, and underbrush

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT EXPLORATION

- Take the students outside and have them explore their schoolyard habitat.
- Ask them to list the animals and plants they see.
- Do any of the animals have adaptations that help them live in their habitat?

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT BOOK REPORT

- After our visit, have the students pick one of the animals we discussed or one they



observed in your schoolyard and have them give a short report on it.

- The report should include the animal/plant name (common and scientific), a drawing of the animal/plant, its special adaptations, food preferences (animals), habitat, and other specific information of interest to the student.
- Once the reports are completed, an “Ohio Animals” habitat book can be put together and displayed.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Click the link below to find additional online resources for teachers and students. These websites are recommended by our Museum Educators and provide additional content information and some fun, interactive activities to share with your class.

<http://www.kelleysislandnature.com/>

<http://www.kelleysislandsaudubon.com/>

<http://www.celebrateurbanbirds.org/>

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

CMNH Educators regularly review these links for quality. Web addresses often change so please notify us if any links have issues.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History <http://www.cmnh.org>

