Animal Adaptations
Grades 4-6
Onsite and Post-visit

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grade 3 Strand IV.B
The student will recognize that plants and animals have different structures that serve various functions.

Grade 3 Strand IV.C
The student will understand that an organism's patterns of behavior are related to the nature of its environment.

Vocabulary:

Adaptation: A characteristic of a living thing that makes it better suited to survive in a particular environment.

Physical Adaptation: A physical characteristic that helps the animal better suited to survive in a particular environment. An example would be the blubber in a whale, keeping it warm and storing energy.

Behavioral Adaptation: The way an animal behaves that makes it better suited to survive in a particular environment. For example, some instincts are behavioral adaptations.

Introduction:

There are many different animal adaptations found in nature. Through this assessment, students will compare the different adaptations of animals and how these specific adaptations help the animals survive in the wild.

Objectives:

The student will:

1. Identify animals with a particular feature that aides in the animal survival.
2. Identify habitats specific to an animal's adaptation.

Procedure:

Materials Needed:
Copies of the Animal Adaptations Worksheet
Pencil

1. Distribute the Animal Adaptation worksheet to the students.
2. Inform students they will be completing the handout to reinforce the concepts of adaptations.
3. Complete worksheet during Zoo visit.
4. Discuss answers back at class.

Options: Teacher can assess students individually, as a collaborative assignment or as a group discussion.

Links:

Adaptation Games
http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/animalneeds/

http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/climate/adaptations/index.cfm

Animal Adaptations Quiz
http://www.netrover.com/~3384mary/quiz_science/animals/quiz1.html

Animal Adaptations Flashcards
http://whyfiles.larc.nasa.gov/text/educators/activities/2001_2002/athome/animal_adapt.html

Scholastic Adaptations Investigation
http://teacher.scholastic.com/dirtrep/animal/index.htm

Minnesota Zoo
www.mnzoo.org