



Big Idea 18

Adaptation

Understanding the kinds of changes animals and plants undergo over time as a reaction to change in their environment can help students see the range of physical features, characteristics, and behaviors in nature in new and informed ways. These new insights can lead to a deepened interest in the natural world and in the study of science.



Enduring Understandings

- Living things exhibit patterns of behavior in their structures, behaviors, and chemical makeup.
- Living things interact with their environments.
- All living organisms have identifiable characteristics or traits that allow for survival.
- An organism's structure helps it survive.
- Organisms of the same kind differ in their individual characteristics or traits.

Vocabulary List

- Camouflage
- Characteristic
- Evolve
- Food chain
- Heredity
- Instinct
- Invasive
- Mimicry
- Mutation
- Natural selection
- Predator
- Protection
- Survival
- Trait
- Variation

Essential Questions

Use these questions to generate interest in the big idea of adaptation.

- What do living things need to survive?
- How is the physical makeup of a living thing related to the way it behaves?
- How does the structure of an organism help it to survive?
- How do organisms survive in harsh or hostile environments?
- How do organisms depend on one another?
- How can organisms increase their chances of survival?
- How do plants and animals adapt to their habitats?
- How do adaptations sustain life?
- What changes in environment could result in an adaptation by a living thing?
- Why are there so many different kinds of plants and animals on Earth?
- What might happen if you introduce a new species to an environment?
- How can human behavior affect plant and animal behavior?

Add your own questions!


