

Adaptations Scavenger Hunt

Grade Level(s): 3-5

Students go to various websites to answer questions about southeastern Idaho desert animal adaptations.

Objectives:

Students will read and research information on desert animals to further develop their understanding of their adaptations.

Materials:

1. Access to the Internet for each student.
2. Scavenger Hunt sheet with questions from each website.

Plan:

1. The teacher will review with the class what they already know about animal adaptations.
2. The teacher will explain that today the class will be going on a scavenger hunt to discover more information about the characteristics of local desert animals.
3. Each student will then receive a handout with questions to answer and the websites the answer can be found on
4. If the students finish early, they can look further at areas of interest on the websites.

Comments:

This lesson is a fun way to get kids more familiar with mammals and their characteristics. They can also get more familiar with Internet research.

Southeastern Idaho Desert Animal Adaptations

All animals live in habitats. Habitats provide food, water, and shelter which animals need to survive, but there is more to survival than just the habitat. Animals also depend on their physical features to help them obtain food, keep safe, build homes, withstand weather, and attract mates. These physical features are called **physical adaptations**. Physical adaptations do not develop during an animal's life but over many generations. The shape of a bird's beak, the number of fingers, color of the fur, the thickness or thinness of the fur, or the shape of the nose or ears are all examples of physical adaptations which help different animals to survive.

Other adaptations are behavioral. **Behavioral adaptations** are the things organisms do to survive. For example, bird calls and migration are behavioral adaptations.

Visit these internet sites about animal adaptations and complete the activities for each one to find out how southeastern Idaho animals adapt to life in the desert.

Northern Grasshopper Mouse - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/Newsletter/archive/grasshoppermouse.htm>

1. How does the grasshopper mouse get its water?
2. How does the grasshopper mouse defend its territory?

Black-tailed Jackrabbit - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/Newsletter/archive/Blacktail.htm>

1. What time of day do black-tailed jackrabbits look for food?
2. How do their ears keep them cool?

Pronghorn - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/Newsletter/archive/pronghorn.htm>

1. How does a pronghorn avoid being eaten by a predator?
2. How does a pronghorn stay warm in the winter?

Ord's Kangaroo Rat - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/rat.htm>

1. How do kangaroo rats get water?
2. Do kangaroo rats have pouches? Where?

Sagebrush Lizard - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/sagebrushlizard.htm>

1. How does a sagebrush lizard avoid being eaten?
2. Where do sagebrush lizards fit in the food chain?

Coyote - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/Newsletter/archive/coyote.htm>

1. Which senses do coyotes use to survive ?
2. What kind of sounds do coyotes make?

Great Basin Rattlesnakes - <http://www.stoller-eser.com/rattler.htm>

1. Name two ways a rattlesnake can defend itself.