



Animal Features & Adaptations

Outdoor Classroom Investigation Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources:

<https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-field-investigation-animal-features-and-adaptations/>

Students will explore the outdoor classroom as they look for an animal to observe, and then they will use their observations to determine which of the animal's features or adaptations of its external body parts help it survive and grow.

The background information below can be used to help introduce the topic, engage the students, and build a foundation to discuss the topic:

Background Information

All animals on Earth have adapted features that help them survive.

Adaptations are changes in the animals' physical bodies or in their behaviors, and these adaptations can vary greatly from species to species.

Some animals have developed specific traits and adaptations that help them cope and meet their daily needs under the environmental conditions of their specific **habitat** (or home).

More specifically, adaptations help animals stay safe from **predators** (animals that might eat them), help them get food, and help them successfully raise their young.

These animal adaptations have evolved over millions of years, and can therefore be very specific.

For instance, think of all of the different shapes that birds' beaks can have and how the shape of their beaks related to what food they eat.

Seed-eating birds have short beaks, whereas nut-eating birds have thicker, more conical-shaped beaks to break the nuts open.

