

## **Aim**

- To develop an understanding of the scientific meaning of adaptation.

## **Success Criteria**

- I can understand that adaptations are mutations.
- I can identify adaptive traits.

# Variation



What does variation mean?

What causes variation?

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zxg7y4j>

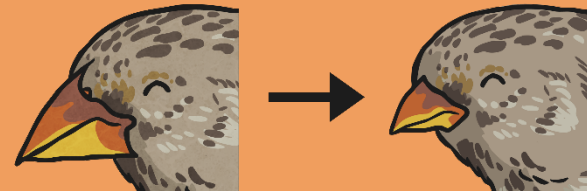
Inheritance

These are characteristics that offspring inherit from their parents.



Adaptation

These are characteristics that are influenced by the environment the living thing lives in.



# Environment and Habitats



# Environment and Habitats



Sometimes the words 'environment' and 'habitat' are used as though they have the same meaning. However, there are important differences:

A habitat refers to a specific area or place in which animals and plants can live.

An environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

So a bird may live in the woods, its habitat, but its environment could include a stream and a mountain, which are habitats in their own right.

What different types of habitats are there?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/habitats>



Polar regions



Deserts



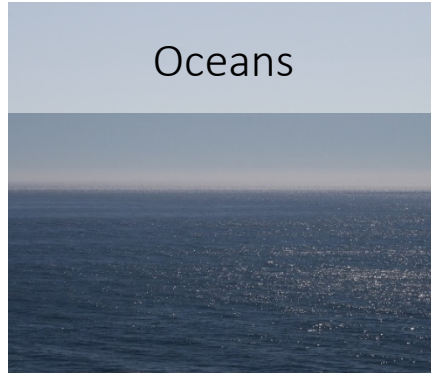
Coniferous forests



Tropical rainforests



Oceans



Grasslands



Mountains



Remember: an environment is more than one habitat.

Heath



# What Does Adapted Mean?



'Adapted' means to adjust to new conditions – like a new home or school.

'Adapted' is when you turn a book into a TV programme or a film!!



'Adapted' means making something suitable for a new purpose - like cutting off the legs of jeans to make them into shorts.

What do you think? Discuss with your talk partner.

Correct Answer: All three of them! But none of these is the scientific meaning.

# Adaptation

## Scientific Definition

When you see a fish swimming in its habitat, it is noticeable that it is suited to it.

Can you think of two ways that fish are suited to living in the water?

Examples:

It has gills to breathe in oxygen in the water. It has fins that allow it to move through water easily.

It has a special bladder called a swim bladder which allows it to remain buoyant.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zxg7y4j#zp63v9q>

# Adaptation

## Scientific Definition

So it's easy to think that the fish has adapted (changed) – to suit its habitat or environment. But this is incorrect!

No living thing changes deliberately to adapt to an environment.

Think about it - if you wanted to change and live in the sea would you be able to choose to grow fins? If you were in the water long enough would you start to develop gills? The answer for both is no!

Even though it may seem hard to believe, this fish has developed all of these features accidentally, not intentionally or deliberately.

The adaptations, each of which have occurred over time (which is called evolution) make it easier for the fish to live in water and survive.

We only see the fish as it is now and not the other fish who started off similar to it but whose adaptations made it harder, rather than easier, to live in the water. These fish have become extinct as a result.

The successful adaptations allowed the fish to survive in the water better. Hence the fact that this fish is still alive now.

Adaptation is not a part of a living thing, it is a process. The parts, such as gills, are called the 'adaptive traits'.



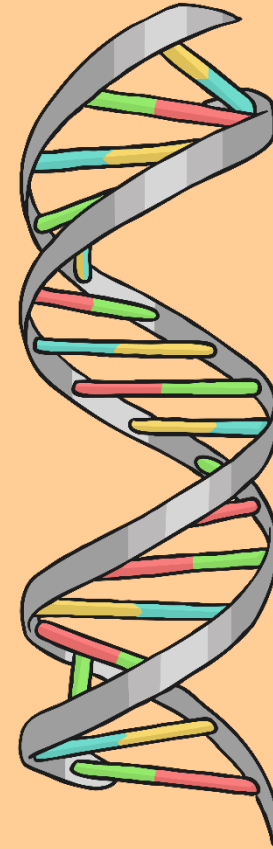
# Accidental Adaptations

So how do these random, accidental adaptations occur? The usual cause is random mutations.

We need to go back to our DNA.

Each cell has a copy of the DNA. Random mutations occur when the cell becomes damaged and fails to repair itself completely. Sometimes this failure affects the DNA in the cell.

In this situation, the DNA stays slightly different. When the cell with the mutated DNA replicates, it will do so with the mutation.



# Accidental Adaptations

Mutations are not in themselves good or bad. Some mutations have no effect at all! However, other mutations can cause us to lose or gain functions.

One example of this is the ability of humans to drink milk after infancy.

All other mammals stop drinking milk after they are weaned. As they develop they become lactose intolerant (the body stops being able to digest milk).

A mutation in humans has allowed us to carry on drinking milk even after we are weaned as babies. Further mutation means we can drink the milk of other mammals – such as cows, sheep and goats. Again no other mammal does this!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zxg7y4j#zt96gdm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zccbp39>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zbp6n39>

# Adaptive Traits



Adaptive traits enable a living thing to survive better in its habitat or environment. As it lives longer, it means that it has a greater chance of reproducing and so the adaptive trait gets passed on.

Your task is to identify adaptive traits in living things.

### Adaptive Traits

Complete the table by matching the living thing with its habitat, then identify one of its adaptive traits.

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits

twinkl.com
Science - Year 1 (KS2) - The Environment (Adaptation Success)

### Adaptive Traits

Complete the table by matching the living thing with its habitat, then identify one of its adaptive traits.

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits

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Dolphin
Desert

Corn
Arctic

Hedgehog
Woods

It stores water in its stem.

It has spines instead of leaves, which reduces the amount of water that evaporates.

Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

It has strong sharp claws (two at the front one two at the back) which allow it to grip branches firmly.

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Acacia tree
Rainforest

Cactus
Ocean

It contains tissues that makes it unresponsive to certain predators.

Its spines have serrated and some have a sticky substance.

It has broad leaves, which enables it to catch more sunlight.

They can develop secondary roots if there has been a flood and there is too much oxygen in the water.

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# Adaptive Traits

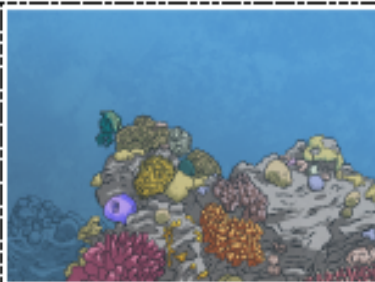
Complete the table by matching the living thing with its habitat, then identify one of its adaptive traits.

Use slides 14 and 15 to  
Complete the table.

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits



Camel



Coral Reef

Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.



Dolphin

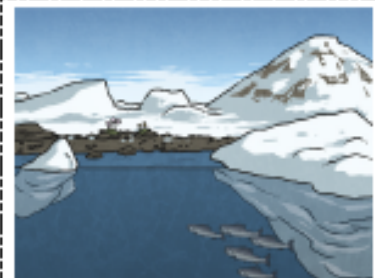


Desert

It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in sand.



Coral

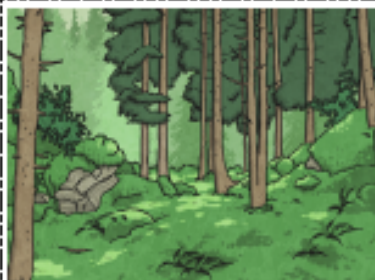


Arctic

It stores water in its stem.



Hedgehog



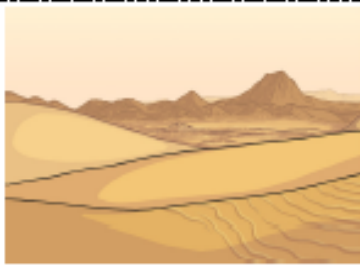
Woods

Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.





Polar Bear



Desert

It has spines to protect itself.



Toucan

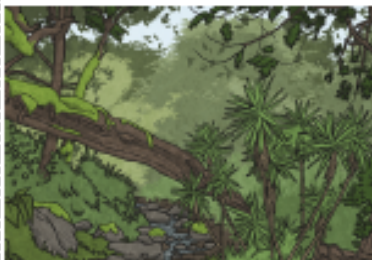


Forest

Its nostrils are on the top of its head so that it only has to break the water to breathe.



Ash Tree



Rainforest

It contains toxins that makes it unappetizing to certain predators.



Cactus



Ocean

It has broad leaves, which enables it to catch more sunlight.


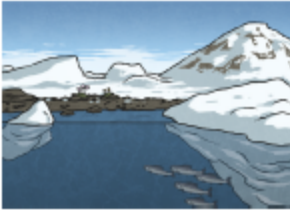

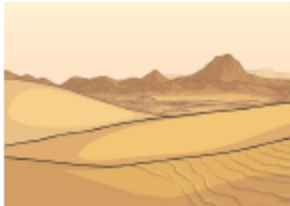



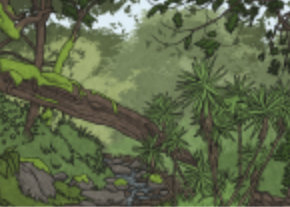
The Answers Are On  
The Next Slide .....






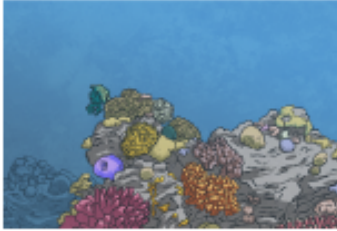




*no peeking*

elyxandra

# Answer Sheet

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits
 <p>Polar Bear</p>	 <p>Arctic</p>	<p>Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.</p>
 <p>Camel</p>	 <p>Desert</p>	<p>It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in sand.</p>
 <p>Cactus</p>	 <p>Desert</p>	<p>It stores water in its stem.</p>
 <p>Toucan</p>	 <p>Rainforest</p>	<p>Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.</p>

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits
 <p data-bbox="805 354 912 386">Hedgehog</p>	 <p data-bbox="1166 354 1245 386">Woods</p>	<p data-bbox="1409 239 1699 272">It has spines to protect itself.</p>
 <p data-bbox="817 644 907 676">Dolphin</p>	 <p data-bbox="1174 644 1248 676">Ocean</p>	<p data-bbox="1409 504 1709 586">Its nostrils are on the top of its head so that it only has to break the water to breathe.</p>
 <p data-bbox="830 936 894 969">Coral</p>	 <p data-bbox="1154 936 1263 969">Coral Reef</p>	<p data-bbox="1409 793 1704 876">It contains toxins that makes it unappetizing to certain predators.</p>
 <p data-bbox="810 1229 907 1262">Ash Tree</p>	 <p data-bbox="1174 1229 1245 1262">Forest</p>	<p data-bbox="1421 1086 1691 1169">It has broad leaves, which enables it to catch more sunlight.</p>

## Aim



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Find out about how other animals have adapted to their habitat. Use the following link to access videos from the BBC website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

England / KS2, Science / The Living World / Adaptation.../ 35 class clips



# Humans



What habitats do humans live in?

Are there any habitats they are not able to live in?

Can you identify adaptive traits that humans have which enable them to live in such a range of different habitats and environments?





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