

Adaptations - 2hrs

In a series of activities, students learn about physical and behavioral adaptations of animals for finding food, avoiding predation, locating a mate, and maintaining a tolerable body temperature.

Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn about different animal adaptations. Remind students that the majority of the time will be spent outside so they should dress appropriately.

While you are here

After the introduction the group will split up into smaller groups and rotate between three stations. Station activities include a camouflage hike, a prey listening game, and an indoor lab looking at taxidermied mounts.

0:00-0:30	Introduction—Learning about what adaptations are and how they can be physical or behavioral
0:30-1:00	Station 1
1:00-1:30	Station 2
1:30-2:00	Station 3

After you leave

As a class, pick one animal to focus on and try and identify all of its adaptations.

Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

Second Grade:

Code	Benchmark
2.1.1.2.1	Raise questions about the natural world and seek answers by making careful observations, noting what happens when you interact with an object, and sharing the answers with others
2.2.1.1.1	Describe objects in terms of color, size, shape, weight, texture, flexibility, strength and the types of materials in the object
2.4.1.1.1	Describe and sort plants into groups in many ways according to their physical characteristics and behaviors

Third Grade:

Code	Benchmark
3.1.1.1.1	Provide evidence to support claims other than saying "Everyone knows that," or "I just know" and question such reasons when given by others
3.1.1.2.1	Generate questions that can be answered when scientific knowledge is combined with knowledge gained from one's own observations or investigations
3.1.1.2.4	Construct reasonable explanations based on evidence collected from observations or experiments
3.4.1.1.1	Compare how the different structures of plants and animals serve various functions of growth, survival, and reproduction
3.4.3.2.2	Give examples of differences among individuals that can sometimes give an individual an advantage in survival or reproduction



Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail
Hastings, MN 55033
Telephone: (651) 437-4359
www.carpenternaturecenter.org