



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What are Adaptations?

Animals live everywhere on Earth. Some places on Earth are very hot and some are very cold. Some places on Earth have a lot of water and plants, and other places have very little water and few plants. Antarctica is covered with snow and ice and has no plants. It is very cold there, too. Guess what? Animals even live in Antarctica!

The land an animal lives in is called its **environment**. Dirt, water, plants, other animals and the temperature of the area are all part of an animal's environment. The desert is an environment. It is very dry and sandy. Deserts are very hot and do not get much rain, yet many animals and plants live in deserts. The rainforest is very wet. It gets a lot of rain. Many, many plants and animal live there, too. How can animals live in such different places in the world?

Animals can live in many different places in the world because they have special **adaptations** to the area they live in. An **adaptation** is a way an animal's body helps it survive, or live, in its environment.

Let's look at how adaptations work! A camel lives in the hot, dry desert.

Winds blow sand all around, so a camel has long eyelashes. It has nostrils that can open and close. The long eyelashes keep sand out of its eyes. Its nostrils can close so it doesn't get sand up its nose. These are two adaptations that a camel has that help it live in the dry, sandy desert.

A polar bear lives in the cold, snowy Arctic lands. It is white. This helps it blend in with the snow and ice that are found there. It has a layer of fat under its skin. This helps it stay warm. It has very wide, large paws. Wide, large paws help it walk in the snow. These are three adaptations a polar bear has to its Arctic environment.

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## What are Adaptations? Comprehension Sheet

Directions: Use the reading sheet to help you answer the questions:

1. What is an environment?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write **two-three facts** about a desert environment:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write **two facts** about a rainforest environment:

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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is an adaptation?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do a camel's long eyelashes help it live in the desert?

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6. How does a polar bear's layer of fat help it live in the Arctic?

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