



ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

How many different animals can you think of?
Can you imagine a brand new creature?

When you are working on this project, you will:

- Find out about animals living in different habitats,
- Explore the adaptations that each animal has to help it live in its environment,
- Design your own animal and imagine the special abilities that it might have.

A polar bear has black skin and transparent fur. The hair is hollow and reflects the light, making the bear appear white.

Kangaroos can hop large distances, but they cannot walk backwards. This is because of their strong back legs and their large tails.

A lion's roar can be heard as far as 5 kilometres (or 3 miles) away!

This pack includes:

- Information about different animals and their habitats,
- Examples of adaptations that various animals have,
- A template to help you design a brand new animal.

If you enjoy this project, why not...?

- Draw a map showing where different animals live.
- Write a report about your favourite animal.
- Make a food chain for a particular habitat.



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Here are some examples of different habitats and the animals that live there.

Arctic



Walrus

- Walruses have **strong tusks** (which can be up to one metre long). These are used to crack breathing holes in the ice and to pull the creatures out of the water. They are sometimes used as weapons in battles over territory.
- They have **blubber** under their **thick skins**, which provides energy and keeps them warm.
- They have poor eyesight, so their **sensitive whiskers** help them to find food.



Arctic Fox

- Arctic foxes have **shorter legs, shorter necks** and **smaller ears** than other foxes. This means that they have less surface area to lose heat.
- They also have **thick fur** all over their bodies and **thick, furry tails** to keep them warm in the cold weather.
- They have a **strong sense of hearing**, which enables them to hear their main prey, lemmings, without needing to see them.

Desert



Camel

- The camel has a **hump** that stores fat, which can be broken down into water and energy. When they do reach water, **they can drink over 100 litres in 13 minutes**.
- Their **nostrils can close** to keep sand out of their nose and they have **bushy eyebrows** and **two rows of eyelashes** to protect their eyes.
- They also have **thick footpads** to help them move around.



Meerkat

- Meerkats **work together**. Some will work as lookouts, looking for predators and warning other family members with their **shrill calls**.
- They are **good hunters** and will work as a team to catch insects, lizards, birds and fruit.
- They can **make burrows** with tunnels and rooms where they all live together.
- Meerkats have a **thin layer of fur**, allowing them to warm their bellies in the sunshine.

Ocean



Dolphin

- Dolphins have **streamlined bodies** which help them to move through the water quickly.
- They like to **live together** in groups of around 10-12 members who all protect each other. They also work as a team to trap large groups of fish.
- They can **communicate** with each other through clicks, squeaks and whistles.
- Dolphins have a **thick layer of blubber** under their skin to keep them warm.



Manta Ray

- Manta rays have **wing-like fins** that allow them to glide through the water. They can dive to depths of over 1,000m, travel huge distances and move at speeds of 15 miles per hour.
- They have **large mouths** to scoop up large amounts of food at a time. **Cephalic fins** help to direct the food into their mouths.
- They **visit special cleaning stations** to clear their bodies of dead skin and parasites.

Pond



Frog

- Frogs have **long, powerful legs** that let them jump and swim for long distances.
- They have **streamlined bodies** and **webbed feet** which help them to swim.
- Their **thin skin** can absorb oxygen and lets water pass in and out.
- They have **large, round eyes** on top of their heads. This lets them see above the surface while keeping most of their body under the water.



Duck

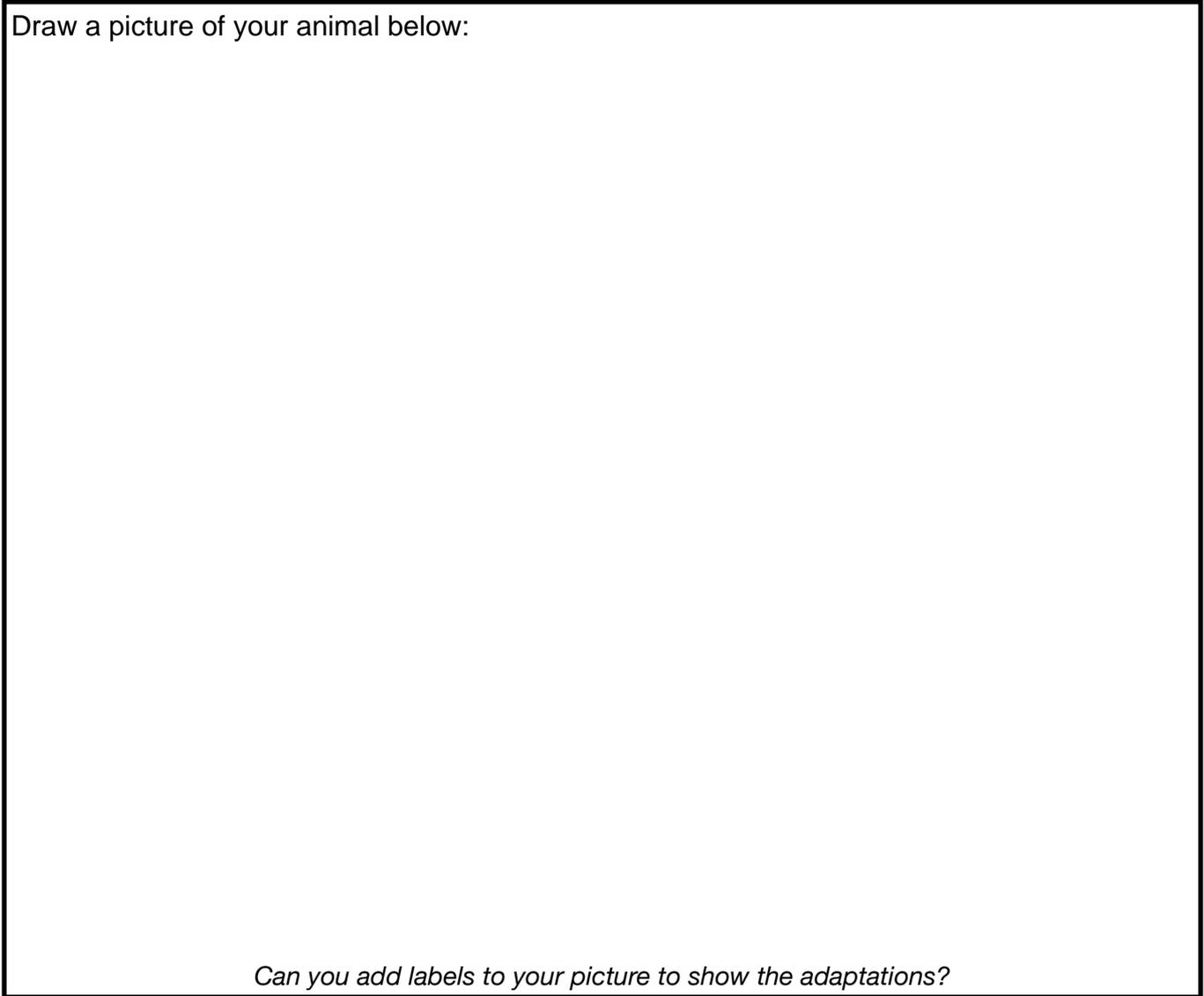
- Ducks have **webbed feet** which help them to swim through the water.
- The **oily coating on their feathers** stops water settling on them and helps to keep them warm.
- **Coloured feathers** camouflage ducks into their surroundings, protecting them from predators.
- Some ducks have **special membranes in their beaks**. These 'combs' sift small animals and other food sources from the water.

Now that you have discovered different animals and their adaptations, try to make up a brand new animal:

- Where does it live?
- How is it adapted to living in that environment?
- What does it eat? Does it have any predators?

My Animal

Draw a picture of your animal below:



Can you add labels to your picture to show the adaptations?

Name: _____

Habitat: _____

**What special adaptations
does your animal have?**

**What does your animal eat?
What predators does it have?**
