

Adaptations

(Teacher Resource)

Physical:

Animals have adaptations in **body parts** for finding, obtaining and eating food. Survival needs may dictate the development of various kinds of:

- *Eyes* – for far and close distance, and frontal or side vision.
- *Claws* – for tearing, slashing, digging, climbing, and holding.
- *Feet* – for slow and/or fast movement, and travel on, under, through, and above land, sea, and air.
- *Wings* – for gliding and making sharp turns.
- *Beaks/Bills* – for picking up and breaking, and protection.
- *Shape* – for movement, hiding, obtaining food, etc.

Animals may adapt **body coverings** for protection. Survival needs may dictate the development of:

- *Fur*
- *Scales*
- *Feathers*
- *Shells*
- *Thick skin*
- *Moist Skin*

Behavioral:

Animals may learn new behaviors from:

- *Being Taught* – dog tricks, tying shoes.
- *Social Interaction* - way an animal behaves in an organized group may be changed, for example, prairie dogs and bees.
- *Reflex* – blinking when object approaches eye.
- *Instinct* – fear of snakes.

Special Adaptations:

Survival needs may dictate the development of:

- *Warning Coloration* – bright colors to warn of danger or unpleasantness, i.e., poison arrow frog or monarch butterfly.
- *Mimicry* – harmless animal copies coloration of another animal that is harmful or unpleasant, i.e., viceroy butterfly, coral snake, or king snake.
- *Counter Shading* – top and bottom of animal are different color, i.e., shark, penguin or squirrel.
- *Camouflage* – blends in with surroundings, i.e., walking stick, polar bear, or chameleon.