

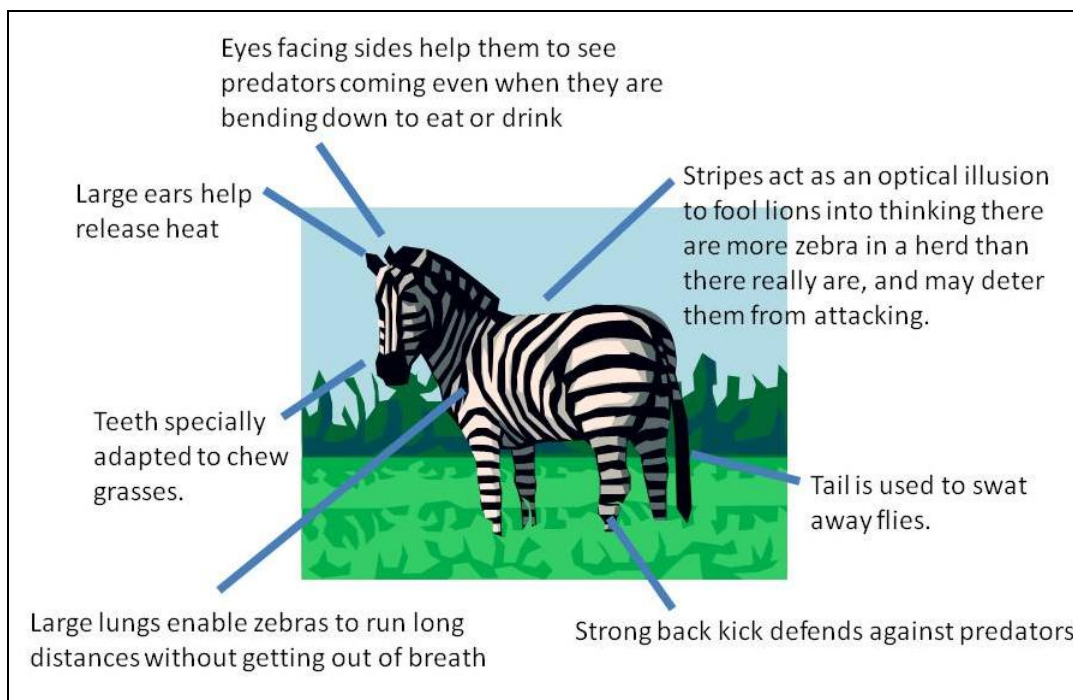
# Adaptations - Pre & Post Visit Activities

The following are optional activities that you may choose to do with your class to supplement their visit to the Greater Vancouver Zoo.

## 1. Animal Adaptation Posters

Every animal has different adaptations that help it to survive in their environment. Have each student choose an animal and create a poster with a large picture of that animal in the middle and pointing out special adaptations that the animal might have to adapt to their environment. Have students present their posters to the class. Remember that every part of an animal's body and everything about how an animal behaves or lives are adaptations to help them. An example of a poster is given below. If your students are stuck, have them answer questions like these:

- Is there anything special about how the animal is colored?
- Does the animal have horns, antlers, wings, a tail, or a distinctive body part?
- What does the animal eat? Does it have special teeth, stomachs, grazing patterns, or behavior to help it acquire food?
- How do they acquire water?
- Does the animal have any predators? What does it use for self defense?
- How does the animal keep its body at the right temperature?
- Is the animal solitary or do they live in groups?
- Does it have any symbiotic relationships with other animals?
- What time of the day are they awake?
- Do they have any special features to help them see, hear, feel, or smell?
- Where does the animal live (in trees? In the water?)? How does it adapt to its immediate environment? Does it build a home or live out in the open? Does it migrate?
- Do they spend a lot of time moving or are they mostly sedentary?



## 2. Complete the Animal Adaptations Crossword

Have your students complete the crossword on page 3 of this document to identify different adaptations animals might have.

Answer key:

Antlers, Nocturnal, Hibernate, Camels, Mane, Wings, Horns, Sweating, Claws, Feathers, Water, Insects, Tongue, Shell, Camouflage

## 3. Adapt Yourself

Have your students consider that they are lost in the wilderness with no tools or resources to help them. They can imagine any sort of environment that they want (forest, desert, ocean, arctic, etc.) What amazing animal adaptation would they most like to add to their own body to make it easier to survive? Wings? Claws? Sharp teeth? Antlers? Gills? Camouflage spots? Have them write a page/ draw a picture / make a presentation on why they think that adaptation would help, and how or why they prefer that one.

And/or

Humans have adaptations too. Before we had food, water, and shelter so readily available, we had to survive in the wild. Have the kids brainstorm our own adaptations and discuss how they could be important. Possible answers include: hair to keep us warm, being bipedal (standing/walking on two legs), having opposable thumbs, fingernails to scratch things, teeth for tearing and chewing food, eyes, ears, nose, joints to move our limbs, etc.

## 4. Adaptation origins

When people think of animal adaptations, the first things that come to mind are often the charismatic large animals. Consider adaptations of smaller animals that aren't so popular. Divide your class into small groups, visit the library, and have them research adaptations of animals that are not as obvious:

- Starfish
- Sea sponges
- Earthworms
- Clams
- Spiders
- Jellyfish
- Snails
- Octopuses
- Anemones
- Moles

# Animal Adaptations Word Search

A	S	W	E	A	T	I	N	G	E	H	D	W	S	H	E	L	L	H	D
E	C	M	C	K	F	J	S	E	A	F	E	A	R	W	B	D	A	I	P
P	I	G	F	A	N	T	L	E	R	S	M	F	H	I	M	F	I	B	E
D	N	F	B	D	H	A	L	D	G	T	W	E	L	N	S	U	T	E	G
N	S	S	W	I	T	E	H	I	S	U	E	A	I	G	S	G	L	R	C
A	E	M	C	T	S	R	E	H	T	A	E	F	T	S	L	A	E	N	R
W	C	G	P	A	O	N	L	I	A	S	D	S	H	E	N	D	U	A	Y
E	T	E	N	H	M	E	Y	S	N	S	N	R	E	U	G	N	O	T	D
L	S	U	M	I	S	O	H	R	H	O	R	N	S	K	N	H	I	E	L
C	I	A	K	S	C	B	U	E	Y	U	C	A	L	T	B	A	T	R	E
F	R	F	T	A	F	E	T	F	R	G	E	T	N	G	H	E	S	G	R
A	G	K	M	R	A	J	E	D	L	R	D	S	U	W	J	F	D	H	C
E	M	E	A	H	U	I	L	G	N	A	E	A	E	R	S	A	I	T	L
I	L	E	N	C	S	B	R	I	L	E	G	C	T	S	N	L	U	W	E
S	T	E	E	S	F	O	U	F	Y	D	S	E	S	N	W	A	T	E	R
C	G	K	H	B	T	C	L	A	W	S	L	T	U	K	B	F	L	H	E

Answer the questions below to determine the words hidden in the puzzle above. The words may be found up, down, backwards, or diagonally.

- Deer have these on their heads to defend themselves against predators: \_\_\_\_\_
- This type of animal, like an owl or bat, is usually awake at night: \_\_\_\_\_
- Bears do this to help them better survive the winter: \_\_\_\_\_
- These animals have big humps of fat to help them go long periods without food or water: \_\_\_\_\_
- A male lion features one of these around his neck to protect him during fights: \_\_\_\_\_
- Birds, bats, and some insects have these to help them fly: \_\_\_\_\_
- A rhinoceros has these on his nose: \_\_\_\_\_
- When our bodies get hot, we release moisture through our skin to cool off. This is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many predators, such as big cats, have these sharp features on their feet: \_\_\_\_\_
- Birds have a covering of these to help keep them warm and enable them to fly: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hippopotamuses spend much of there time submerged in this, trying to keep cool: \_\_\_\_\_
- Bat-eared foxes have large ears to help hear these animals moving underground: \_\_\_\_\_
- While humans use this body part to taste, reptiles use it to smell: \_\_\_\_\_
- This outer covering is an important part of a tortoise's skeleton: \_\_\_\_\_
- Many animals have spots or patterning on their bodies for this purpose: \_\_\_\_\_