



Adaptations Classroom Lesson Plan Overview– 3rd - 5th grade

Grade level: 3rd – 5th grade

Program Length: 1 hour total (Divided into 3–20-minute lessons)

Part 1: Adaptations for Beginners (20 mins.)

Part 2: Adaptations in Action (20 mins.)

Part 3: Exploring Physical Adaptations (20 mins.)

Related NE State Science Standards:

- SC.3.9.3.C Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.
- SC.3.9.3.D Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variation in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

Outcomes: After completing Adaptations lesson from Fontenelle Forest, students will be able to:

Understand what behavioral and physical/structural adaptations are and some reasons why living things adapt.

1. Develop an understanding that organisms have different inherited traits and that the environment can also affect the traits that an organism develops.
2. Give examples of plants and animals behavioral and physical(structural) adaptations and how those help them to survive.

Materials:

- Computer/AV equipment to show video clips (4 in this lesson)
- Chart paper or blank document for teacher to make T-chart and record answers
- Paper for individual KWL charts
- Masking tape for shoe tying contest
- Design your own species activity: “Animal Discovery News” paper copy of activity page for each student with pencils, crayon/markers OR make it a digital version for designing on tablets/iPads

Adaptations Lesson and Activity Resources Guide

1. Adaptations classroom lesson overview and plans created by Fontenelle Forest Education Department Staff.
2. YouTube video by [Highschool Science 101 "Types of Adaptations"](#) briefly describing differences between physical and behavioral adaptations.
3. Video about plant adaptations at Fontenelle Forest. Created by Fontenelle Forest: [Save the Oaks - Episode 1 - Saving the Oaks at Fontenelle Forest - YouTube](#)
4. Animal Discovery News-Adaptations activity sheet created by Fontenelle Forest Education Department staff.
5. Project Wild K-12 Curriculum Activity Guide, Revised edition (2002):
Activity: Thicket Game, pp.114-115.
6. Sit Spot activity. Lesson written by Fontenelle Forest Education Department staff. Demonstration video about nature sit spots by Royal Botanical Gardens: [Connect with Nature: Sit Spots - YouTube](#)
Website directions by Sensory Trust.org: [Sit spot \(sensorytrust.org.uk\)](#)
7. Shoe Tying Race with Taped Thumbs activity. Lesson written by Fontenelle Forest Education Department staff. Inspired by [Minnesota Science Teachers Education Project: The Opposable Thumb as a Human Adaptation: Thumb-taping Lab](#)
8. Website resource for the Great Migration Challenge game from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.gov
[The Great Migration Challenge \(alaska.gov\)](#)
9. YouTube video from Quizes ["How Fast Can You Spot These Camouflaged Animals?"](#) for Part 3 lesson on exploring physical adaptations.
10. Bird Wing paper airplane instructions created by Fontenelle Forest Education Department staff, including information from these two sources:
Book: Raptor! A Kid's Guide to Birds of Prey by Christyna M Laubach, Rene Laubach, and Charles W. G Smith. Storey Kids (2002).
Online article: Audubon Society, Audubon for Kids, "These Paper Airplanes Fly Like Birds" by For The Birds!, April 29, 2020. [These Paper Airplanes Fly Like Birds | Audubon](#)