

# Animal Adaptations

## READ ALOUD PASSAGE

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An adaptation is any feature that helps a living thing survive and reproduce in its environment. Adaptations can be physical features, like the sharp claws of a hawk, or behavioral, like a bear hibernating in winter. Animals that eat plants, called herbivores, often have flat grinding teeth for chewing tough plant material. Animals that eat other animals, called carnivores, often have sharp pointed teeth for tearing meat.

Energy flows through living things in a pattern called a food chain. A food chain starts with plants, which are called producers because they make their own food. Plants are eaten by herbivores, which are called primary consumers. Herbivores are eaten by carnivores, which are called secondary consumers.

At each step in a food chain, most of the energy is lost as heat. Only about one tenth of the energy passes on to the next level. This is why there are always far more plants than herbivores, and far more herbivores than carnivores.

If any part of a food chain is removed or disrupted, the whole chain is affected. If all the rabbits in an ecosystem disappeared, the foxes that depend on them would struggle to find enough food.

### Activity 1

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the word box.

WORD BOX

adaptation   herbivore   carnivore   producer   food   chain

1. Any feature that helps a living thing survive in its environment is an \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. An animal that eats only plants is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. An animal that eats other animals is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Plants are called \_\_\_\_\_ because they make their own food.
  5. Energy flows through living things in a pattern called a \_\_\_\_\_.
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### Activity 2

Because / But / So Complete each sentence three different ways.

Plants are the beginning of almost every food chain because

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Plants are the beginning of almost every food chain but

.....

Plants are the beginning of almost every food chain so

.....

### Activity 3

Circle True or False for each statement.

1. **True / False**      An adaptation is a feature that helps a living thing survive in its environment.
  2. **True / False**      Herbivores have sharp pointed teeth for tearing meat.
  3. **True / False**      In a food chain, energy flows from plants to animals.
  4. **True / False**      A carnivore gets its energy by eating plants.
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### Activity 4

Combine the short sentences below into one smooth sentence.

1.    · Animals have adaptations.  
      · These help them survive in their environment.  
      · Some are physical and some are behavioral.

Combined sentence:

.....

2.    · Plants are producers.  
      · They capture energy from the sun.  
      · Animals that eat plants are called consumers.

Combined sentence:

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