

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How Animals Respond & Change to their Environments

To adapt means to change or adjust for a purpose. For animals, the purpose of adapting is to be able to survive in the environment that they live in. All living things have to make adaptations to survive in their environment. Adaptations take a very long time. Some may take many thousands of years. However, that is what living things have to do to survive. One of the main parts of survival is to make adaptations to your habitat. If the environment changes and you cannot adapt you cannot survive.



Many animals have adapted over time, allowing them to better cope with the threats they face as a regular part of their lives. Some types of adaptation may change the **physical** characteristics of an animal; other adaptations may be a change in **behavior**.

An animal will find shelter when it is raining or storming. They will find shade if it is too hot, or wallow in the mud or a water hole. Some animals have the ability to perspire. They will huddle in a warm den or in a group if it is cold. They will travel to a water source if they are thirsty (there are some animals that are exception to this). Predators will hunt and kill an animal if they are hungry. Herbivores will travel to find their favorite grazing areas to eat.



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### Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Adapting to the environment means**
  - a) Change or adjust for a purpose
  - b) Able to survive in an environment
  - c) Both a and b option
  - d) None of the above
  
2. **How long does it take animals to adapt to their environment?**
  - a) Few days
  - b) Few weeks
  - c) Many years
  - d) It depends on the animals
  
3. **Adaptation could be**
  - a) Behavioral
  - b) Physical
  - c) Both a and b option
  - d) None of the above
  
4. **A herbivore animal would most likely live at a place where**
  - a) Grazing area is near
  - b) There is snow
  - c) Dry places
  - d) There is a beach



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### *Answers*

1. **c**
2. **d**
3. **c**
4. **a**

### *Explanation of Answers*

1. To adapt means to change or adjust for a purpose. For animals, the purpose of adapting is to be able to survive in the environment that they live in. All living things have to make adaptations to survive in their environment.
2. Well, it depends on the animal itself. Physical adaptation may take years and years, whereas the behavioral adaptation may take few days.
3. Both behavioral and physical, some types of adaptation may change the **physical** characteristics of an animal; other adaptations may be a change in **behavior**.
4. Herbivores will travel to find their favorite browsing/grazing area to eat.



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## How Animals Respond & Change to their Environments

### Writing Activity

1. Define adaptation.

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2. What is the difference between Physical and Behavioral adaptation.

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3. Give an example of physical adaptation.

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