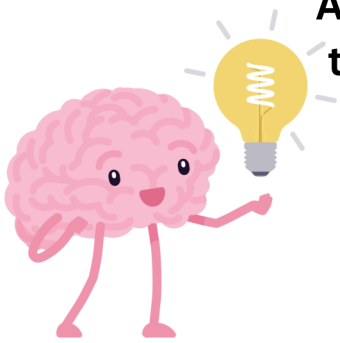


Adaptations

What is an adaptation?



An adaptation is a characteristic of a plant or animal that helps it survive and makes it well-suited for its environment.

In animals, adaptations can be structural or behavioral.

Structural (or physical) adaptations are physical features that help animals survive. For example, eagles have sharp beaks that help them tear into meat, whereas pelicans have beaks with pouches that allow them to scoop up fish in the water. Each has a beak that is a physical adaptation to help them survive.

Behavioral adaptations are things animals *do* that help them survive. For example, bears hibernate during the winter to save energy while food is scarce.

Let's practice!

Circle the examples of adaptations that are **structural** adaptations.

(Remember: **Structural**=physical traits...**Behavioral**=an action or behavior)

1. A beaver's large pointed teeth to chew tree trunks

2. A humpback whale's migration to warmer waters in the winter to give birth

3. A duck's webbed feet that help it swim

4. A jackrabbit's large ears that help it cool down

5. An African bullfrog buries itself during dry months, avoiding drying out until the rains return

6. An opossum plays dead when threatened by a predator

7. A porcupine's quills that provide protection from predators

In the story, *The Lonely Octopus*, Octavia displays many adaptations. List some of those adaptations below:

Structural Adaptations
(Physical Traits)

Behavioral Adaptations
(Action/Behaviors)

