



Biodiversity

Different organisms have different physical features and behaviors that help them to meet their needs to survive. Have students create a chart like the one below to help them to compare and contrast how different animals and plants have adapted to living in their environment.

| Animal or Plant | Physical Adaptation #1 | Physical Adaptation #2 | Behavioral Adaptation | What problems would this organism face if it did not have these adaptations? |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Example #1: Coyote | Coyotes have an excellent sense of smell. | Coyotes have excellent hearing. They can hear better than a human. | Coyotes are nocturnal. They hunt at night. | Coyotes are carnivores, and all of these adaptations help them to find prey animals. Without these kinds of adaptations, they might starve. |
| Example #2: Prickly pear cactus | Cactus have thick stems that swell to hold water. | Cactus are covered in sharp spines. | | Cactus tend to live in dry environments where conserving water is crucial. Their spines protect them from animals that might want to eat them to obtain water. |
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