### Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Animal Adaptations, Source: [Wildlife Informer](https://wildlifeinformer.com/animals-that-adapted/) What is adaptation? An adaptation is a special skill that helps organisms to survive in their environments. Adaptations could be physical, physiological, or behavioral. All living things (including humans) on this planet have adaptations. Adaptations are influenced by environmental factors, including climate and food availability. Animals have needs like food, water, shelter, and breeding. To meet those needs, animals adapt to their environment.

#### 1. Physical adaption examples:

  
A body covering adaptation refers to when the skin or covering of the animal has changed and adapted over time to better suit survival in the animal’s environment. Some examples include scales, webbed feet, sharp claws, wings, hooves, striped or spotted fur, or feathers.

#### 2. Behavioral adaptation examples:

  
Behavioral adaptations in animals refers to the actions or behavior of an animal changing over time to increase its chances of survival. Some examples include migration, instincts, hibernation, nocturnal, and diurnal.

#### 3. Physiological adaptation examples:

  
Physiological adaptations are metabolic changes in an animal that help them to survive. For example, a snake’s ability to produce venom, mammal’s ability to maintain constant body temperature, the release of toxins or poisons, releasing antifreeze proteins to avoid freezing in cold environments, etc.  
  
Florida Animals – Explore the photographs below and learn about one of the animal’s traits or skills. How does this adaptation help the animal survive?

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| Two raccoons in a tree.   Raccoons are nocturnal. | One hummingbird using its beak to collect nectar.   Hummingbirds have long beaks. | One brown owl sitting in a tree with green leaves.   Owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees. |
| One woodpecker with a red head pecking at a tree.   Woodpeckers have zygodactyl (two toes pointing forward and two backward). | One eagle landing on a branch.   Eagles have powerful talons and sharp beaks. | One opossum hidden in a tree at night.   Opossums have opposable thumbs and prehnsile (capable of grasping) tails. |
| One octopus under the water.   Octopuses change the color and texture of their skin. | One coyote walking on a dirt path.   Coyotes have amazing speed (up to 40 miles per hour). | One gopher tortoise on the dirt and grass.  Gopher tortoises burrow under the sand. |