

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Vertebrates and Animal Adaptations

Answer the following questions about animal adaptations as you read the information sheet.

1. What is an adaptation? **Any characteristic that allows an organism to better survive in its environment**
2. Define the three types of adaptations:
Structural-adaptations that occur slowly over generations and involve things like body shape & color
Behavioral-changes to animal behavior like hibernation or migration
Physiological-internal changes that affect the biochemical reactions
3. Give an example of an adaptation that an animal has for attracting a mate. (Tell the animal and their adaptation.)
Peacocks display brightly colored feathers OR frogs make special sounds/calls
4. What adaptation do rattlesnakes have that alerts them when prey is near? **Special sense organs on each side of the head**
5. Give 4 examples of adaptations that birds have that allow them to obtain and eat food.
1) Keen eyesight to spot prey; 2) Talons to grasp prey; 3) Sharp beaks to tear apart their prey; 4) Short, strong beaks for cracking seeds; 5) Large beaks to catch prey; 6) Long, sharp beaks for eating insects
6. Why do animals migrate? Give an example of an animal that migrates and tell why it migrates.
To go to warmer climates or to areas with more food
7. Give an example of aggressive mimicry. **An angler fish has a body that resembles a rock and it uses a part of its spine as a lure which looks like a smaller fish; you can also use scent or other signals**
8. What is the difference between nocturnal and diurnal? Which category do humans fall under?
Nocturnal animals sleep during the day and are awake at night while diurnal animals are the opposite; Humans are diurnal.
9. What are two adaptations that nocturnal animals have? **Extra large eyes or a keen sense of smell**
10. What is another name for camouflage? **Cryptic Coloration**
11. What is protective resemblance? Give an example of an animal that uses this adaptation. **When animals resemble something else to avoid detection; insects that resemble twigs or leaves**
12. Why would an animal want to use protective coloration? **To warn predators away**