

## Adaptations

**Prompt: Many animals have adaptations. These help the animal to live and survive. Describe several adaptations animals have and how these help them. Refer to the text.**

### Exemplar A

Animals survive by using adaptations in how they act and look. An adaptation a chameleon uses to survive is that its tongue can shoot out tremendous distances. Its prey does not know that it will get caught, even when it seems a safe distance away. Likewise, a blue-tailed skink can break off its own tail if grabbed. This must surprise the predator and lets the skink make a quick getaway. Finally, being colorful, just looking a certain way, helps animals survive. Being colorful helps some animals to attract females so they can have babies. The Mandrill monkeys have bright red noses and blue cheeks that females like. Mandarinfish are blue, green, orange and yellow so they make a huge “splash” with females too. These creatures have survived for so long because they are so good at protecting themselves. Let’s hope humans come up with creative ways that we can protect ourselves and each other too.

### Exemplar B

Quick! Hide, change your shape or do a surprise attack! Animals survive by using the most amazing adaptations in how they act and look.

An adaptation a chameleon uses to survive is that its tongue can shoot out tremendous distances. Its prey does not know that it will get caught, even when it seems a safe distance away.

Likewise, a blue-tailed skink acts in a way so that it can break off its own tail if grabbed, and make a quick get away.

Another way animals adapt to stay safe is through using scary, prickly defenses. Lizards puff up, point out their sharp spikes on their backs and spit real blood so other animals feel afraid.

Finally, being colorful, just looking a certain way, helps animals survive. Being colorful helps some animals to attract females so they can have babies. The Mandrill monkeys have bright red noses and blue cheeks that females like. Mandarinfish are blue, green, orange and yellow so they make a huge “splash” with females too.

No wonder these creatures have all survived for so long. This is important because the web of life works best if all creatures continue to exist and none go extinct.