

Adaptations to Habitat

Special features that enable animals to live in a particular habitat.



Year 0-2

Learning Outcomes:

at the end of the session students will:

- ✓ Know what animals need to find in their habitat to stay alive.
- ✓ Name a part of an animal and say how it helps them to survive in a particular habitat.

Session Outline:

We will observe some animals at the Zoo to see how parts of their bodies help them move, find food and stay safe in their habitats.

Students will explore with animal artefacts to identify how animals' bodies are different and suited to the place where they live.

Year 3-4

Learning Outcomes:

at the end of the session students will:

- ✓ Identify physical features of selected zoo animals and state how these features enable the animal to survive and thrive in a particular habitat.

Session Outline:

We will observe animal species in the Zoo grounds to discover how they are able to survive and thrive in a particular habitat. The students will discover the ways in which animals protect themselves from the weather and from predators, find or catch their food and attract a mate.

From these observations the students will begin to make links between animals' features and their ability to survive in a habitat. Students will be given challenges to apply this knowledge and problem solve throughout the session.

Year 5-6

Learning Outcomes:

at the end of the session students will:

- ✓ Give examples of physical and behavioural animal adaptations.
- ✓ Make links between an animal's adaptations and its ability to live in a particular habitat.
- ✓ Recognise how changes in a habitat can affect the animal's ability to survive.

Session Outline:

We will observe different animal species in the Zoo grounds to identify physical and behavioural adaptations. Students will discover how these adaptations help animals to find food or catch food, protect themselves from the weather and from predators and attract a mate. These observations will help students make links between an animal's adaptations and its ability to survive in a particular habitat. But what happens when habitats change?

Students will be given challenges to apply their knowledge and problem solve throughout the session.

Year 7-8

Learning Outcomes:

at the end of the session students will:

- ✓ Give examples of physical and behavioural animal adaptations and relate these to a particular habitat.
- ✓ Explain how changes in a habitat can affect the animal's ability to survive.
- ✓ Describe a conservation project that Auckland Zoo participates in which helps a species survive in the wild eg Cheetah Outreach.

Session Outline:

We will observe New Zealand and exotic species at the Zoo to discover how their physical and behavioural adaptations enable them to survive and thrive in a particular habitat. The students will investigate the ways in which animals protect themselves from the weather and from predators, find or catch their food and attract a mate. We will also explore how changes in habitats due to human activities may drastically affect the survival of wildlife. Examples of conservation projects may be used to illustrate how the Zoo is helping to protect animals in their wild habitats.

Curriculum Links

Science Level 1/2
Science Level 3/4

Curriculum Objectives

Science – Living World

Life processes Level 1-2 – Recognise that all living things have certain requirements so they can stay alive.

Ecology Level 1-2 – Recognise that living things are suited to their particular habitat.

Ecology Level 3-4 – Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced.

Nature of Science

Understanding about Science, Investigating in Science, Communicating in Science, Participating and Contributing.

Key Competencies

Thinking, Managing Self,
Participating and Contributing,
Relating to Others

Auckland Zoo

Conservation Actions

Protect What's Precious
Choose Wisely



Protect what's precious



Choose wisely