

















Year 4/5 Science Knowledge Organiser – Adaptations

Vocabulary

1 organism 	any animal, plant or other living thing	9 echolocation 	a way of finding an object using reflected sound, used by animals such as dolphins and bats
2 habitat 	natural home of an organism	10 arid 	a dry and hot environment e.g. Sahara desert
3 adaptation 	a characteristic of an organism that helps it to survive in its environment	11 precipitation 	rain, snow, sleet or hail
4 camouflage 	an adaptation that allows an animal to blend in with its environment	12 desert 	most experts agree that a desert is an area of land that receives no more than 25 cm of precipitation a year. Not all deserts are hot.
5 nocturnal 	animals that are mostly active at night	13 marine 	relating to or found in the sea
6 diurnal 	animals that are mostly active during the day	14 bacteria 	small, single-celled organisms
7 succulent 	having thick fleshy leaves or stems adapted to storing water	15 insulation 	a layer that keeps an animal warm This might be fur (sea otters) or a layer of fat.
8 migration 	in animals, the seasonal movement from one region to another, in search of food or to reproduce	16 streamlined 	a shape which has very little resistance to air or water

Key knowledge

Countershading

This is a form of camouflage commonly seen in marine animals whereby the upper side of the animal is darker than the lower side. Sharks and penguins have this type of camouflage. It can help to hide an animal from its prey or predator.

Adaptation

An adaptation is a **characteristic** of an organism that improves its chances of surviving and/or reproducing. It is important to understand that an animal cannot choose its adaptations. Organisms are generally well adapted to the conditions of the environment in which they live but environmental changes are having an impact. For example, as the Arctic snow melts due to climate change, a white polar bear is no longer camouflaged and this will make hunting prey far harder.