



2nd-4th Grade: The Science of Survival

Existing species have inherited traits from their ancestors that helped them to survive and reproduce.

Description: Animals inherit traits from their parents and ancestors that help them survive

Location at Zoo: World of the Insect, Dragons, Hippo Cove **Materials:** Pencil, clipboard

1. Head to the Dragons habitat. Observe the different types of lizards present in this building. List one different adaptation, physical or behavioral, that you have observed for each one and how that adaptation might be useful in survival and/or filling their role in their habitat.

Species #1: _____

Adaptation:

Species #2: _____

Adaptation:

Species #3: _____

Adaptation:

Species #4: _____

Adaptation:

2. Head to the World of the Insect and observe the leaf cutter ants. Can you spot an example of each of these types of workers performing their jobs? When you do, make a check mark in the box next to the job description. You can also draw a picture of them performing their job in the space below the description.

- ☐ A guard - a tiny ant that rides on some of the bits of leaves as they are carried back to the nest to protect the forager from fly attacks.

- ☐ A forager - explores the area around their nest in search of non-toxic leaves, then works with other foragers to cut pieces of leaves to bring back to the nest.

- ☐ A soldier – they are the largest of the workers and are the colony defenders. They respond to attacks with painful bites using extra strong jaws.

- ☐ A gardener/nurse – they are found on and within tunnels of the fungal garden, and they clean and take care of whole gardens of fungus. They work double duty as nurses, caring for the eggs and babies of the colony.

- ☐ An excavator - builds all of the nest’s chambers, one jaw full of dirt at a time. They have the job of expanding the nest as the colony grows.

- ☐ A trash handler - transports dead and dirty items to the garbage chambers.

3. Head to Hippo Cove. Observe Fritz and his mom, Bibi, and his dad, Tucker. You can also observe Fiona and her mom, Bibi. Name three adaptations that they share that would help them to survive in the wild.

Adaptation #1: _____

This adaptation is (circle one):

physical

behavioral

Adaptation #2: _____

This adaptation is (circle one):

physical

behavioral

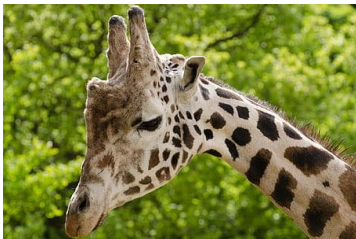
Adaptation #3: _____

This adaptation is (circle one):

physical

behavioral

4. When animals have babies, the babies have traits that make them look like their parents. If Giraffe #1 and Giraffe #2 had a baby, which spot pattern below would their calf most likely have? (Circle one)



Giraffe #1



Giraffe #2

