

# Y6 Adaptation

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Worked example

### How is a polar bear adapted to the Arctic?

Step 1 · Keeping warm

Thick fur and a layer of fat up to 10 cm thick

Step 2 · Hiding

Whitish fur: camouflage on snow when hunting seals

Step 3 · Moving on ice

Huge paws spread its weight; rough pads stop slipping

Step 4 · Swimming

Strong front legs paddle; it can swim for days

**Answer: Thick fur and fat for warmth, pale fur for camouflage, and big paws for ice and swimming.**

Check: For each adaptation say WHAT it is and HOW it helps survival.

## 2. Now try one with the steps

### How is a cactus adapted to the desert?

Step 1 · Leaves

Step 2 · Stem

Step 3 · Roots

Step 4 · Surface

**Answer:**

## 3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is an adaptation?

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2. Give one way a polar bear is adapted to keep warm.

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3. What does a camel's hump store?

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4. How do a cactus's spines help it survive?

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5. How do webbed feet help a duck?

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6. What is camouflage?

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7. Why does a fennec fox have very large ears?

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8. Give one adaptation of a fish for living in water.

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9. Why does an Arctic fox have small ears?

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10. Why do cactus roots spread wide just under the surface?

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11. Hedgehogs hibernate in winter. How does this help them survive?

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12. A water lily has large flat leaves that float. How does this help it?

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13. Can a single animal grow a new adaptation because it needs one? Explain.

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14. Why might an animal well adapted to its habitat struggle if the climate changes?

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#### 4. Before you hand it in

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**Saying 'the camel's hump stores water'.**

Camels save water in other ways: they lose very little in urine and sweat.

**Saying an animal 'adapts' by deciding to change its body.**

Adaptations develop over many generations (see evolution, Y6-S3).

**Naming an adaptation without explaining it.**

Use 'which helps it... because...': 'thick fur, which helps it keep warm because it traps air'.

**Thinking only animals are adapted.**

Include plant examples in your answers.