

Week 2

Bird Adaptation

Educational Goals:

- Learn about what an adaptation is and why adaptations are important to species survival
- Learn that different species have different survival strategies that result in them having different adaptations
- Learn about local birds and gain an understanding of the different adaptations that these birds have developed in order to survive in their specific niches

TEKS: 5.11A, 4.10A, 3.10A

What is an adaptation?

Adaptations are inherited characteristics that increase an organism chance of survival. Those with the most helpful traits are more likely to live long enough to pass on their traits, which ensures a passing on of beneficial traits.

Species that are adapted to a habitat very specifically are harmed more by change from outside sources like invasive species or human development.

In the movie *Spies in Disguise* Lance is Turned into a Bird. As he changes from human to pigeon, he notices that he can see his own butt and Walters face at the same time. Humans don't have 360 vision, but pigeons do. That is an example of how pigeons have adapted to their environment which helps them survive in the wild.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccByAVGIoCY> skip to 4:05

Why is it important?

Adaptations are important to organism populations because if an organism couldn't adapt to their environment then populations could die out. Animals habitats are changing constantly being changed by humans from sources like global warming, logging, pollution. Naturally habitats can change from forces like natural disasters, disease, or changing seasons.

Examples of adaptations

All species of birds have many different beak types that are different in their own unique way. Birds have adapted in specific ways to allow them to best suit their needs in eating, breeding, and camouflage.

Results from post activity

The takeaway from the post activity should show how some beak are better at picking up a specific food type than others. For example, the tweezers are probably better at picking up rice than tongs, but the tongs should just be better for larger items, like beans.

Similarly, Birds beaks are specific for their diet and help them have an advantage in that specific food source.