A habitat is the place that an animal lives. Wherever there is food, water, and shelter, animals have evolved traits to face the unique challenges of living in those environments. We call these traits adaptations. Some adaptations are physical, like color on a butterfly, but some are behavioral, like hibernation in bears to save energy in winter. Let’s take a look at some animal adaptations that help animals in their habitats!

MATERIALS
- 6 animal cards (on following pages)
- 6 habitat cards (on following pages)
- 11 adaptation cards (on following pages)
- Map of the area you live (digital or print)
- Scissors
- Science notebook or paper
- Something to write with

PROCEDURE
- Cut out the animal/habitat/adaptation cards
- On each habitat card, write down two or three words to describe that habitat.
- Look at a map of where you live. Where might you find each of these habitats?
- Take the animal cards and try to match them to their habitats. What are clues about the animal’s body that help you know which habitats they live in?
- Match the adaptation cards to the animals. How might these adaptations help the animal to live in its habitat?

TRY THIS
- Choose another habitat and make a list in your science notebook of animals that live there. Name some adaptations that each animal has to help it live in that habitat.

Experiment continued on next page...
DID YOU KNOW

This activity uses examples of adaptations for heat, snow, cold and water. Large ears are an important way of getting rid of excess body heat, and are found on animals like rabbits and elephants. Large feet spread an animal’s weight around so it can walk on top of the snow without sinking, and furry feet can help an animal keep from losing too much body heat to the snow. Webbed feet can help an animal to swim more easily and oily, waterproof hair can keep that animal warm and dry while they swim.

Experiment continued on next page...
CURIOSITY AT HOME
HABITAT MATCH

ANIMAL CARDS
Cut each one out.

Jackrabbit
Snowshoe Hare
WA Ground Squirrel

River Otter
Black Bear
Beaver

Show us how you’re being curious! Share your results with us.
HABITAT CARDS

Cut each one out.

DESERt:

RIVER/CREEK:

MOUNTAIN:

ALL 3 HABITATS:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estivation (similar to hibernation)</th>
<th>Nocturnal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furry feet</td>
<td>Water-resistant hairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hibernation</td>
<td>Water-resistant hairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large ears</td>
<td>Webbed feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large feet</td>
<td>Webbed feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives underground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3–5 GRADE EXPLORATION

Explore the following questions and write your observations in your science notebook.

- Compare the two types of rabbits on the list. What about them is the same? What about them is different? How could those differences help each rabbit in their habitat?
- Some of the animals we looked at have special adaptations to their feet to help them move around their habitat. Can you think of any other types of animals with special feet?
- Camouflage is when an animal uses color or patterns to hide in their habitat. Which animals in this activity use camouflage? What other animals can you think of, that camouflage in their habitats?