

DESIGN AN ANIMAL

Wildlife Champions at Home Science Experiment

2-LS4-1: Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

4-LS1-1: Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

How are animals adapted to their habitat?

Animals are shaped by nature to survive in their habitat. They have special body parts and behaviors that help them to find the food, water and shelter they need. An **adaptation** is something that helps a plant or animal survive in their habitat. Animals have adaptations that help them find and catch food, defend themselves, move around in their environment or find a mate. Many adaptations develop in a population or species over a long period of time such as polar bears gaining their white fur to camouflage with the arctic tundra. Other adaptations develop quickly in individual organisms such as a human rock climber developing calluses on their hands or a raccoon learning to beg for food around a new neighborhood. Animals have two different kinds of adaptations: physical adaptations and behavioral adaptations. A **physical adaptation** is an adaptation of the physical body. Examples of physical adaptations include a porcupines quills, the sharp teeth of a tiger or the fins of a fish. A **behavioral adaptation** is an adaptation of behaviors or habits. Examples of behavioral adaptations include orcas working together to hunt, meerkats screaming when they spot danger or a cat giving a warning hiss to a stranger.

Directions

Design an imaginary animal by combining the adaptations of three (or more) real animals.

Materials: One piece of paper, one pencil, coloring tools (optional)

Step 1. Think of some of your favorite animals. What adaptations do they have?
On the top of your paper, make a short list of some animals and one adaptation each has.

Step 2. Get creative, think of ways these adaptations could be combined to make a new, imaginary animal! **Hint:** your imaginary animal will need to **eat**, **defend** itself against predators and **move** around in its habitat. Be sure to include at least one adaptation to fulfill each of these needs.



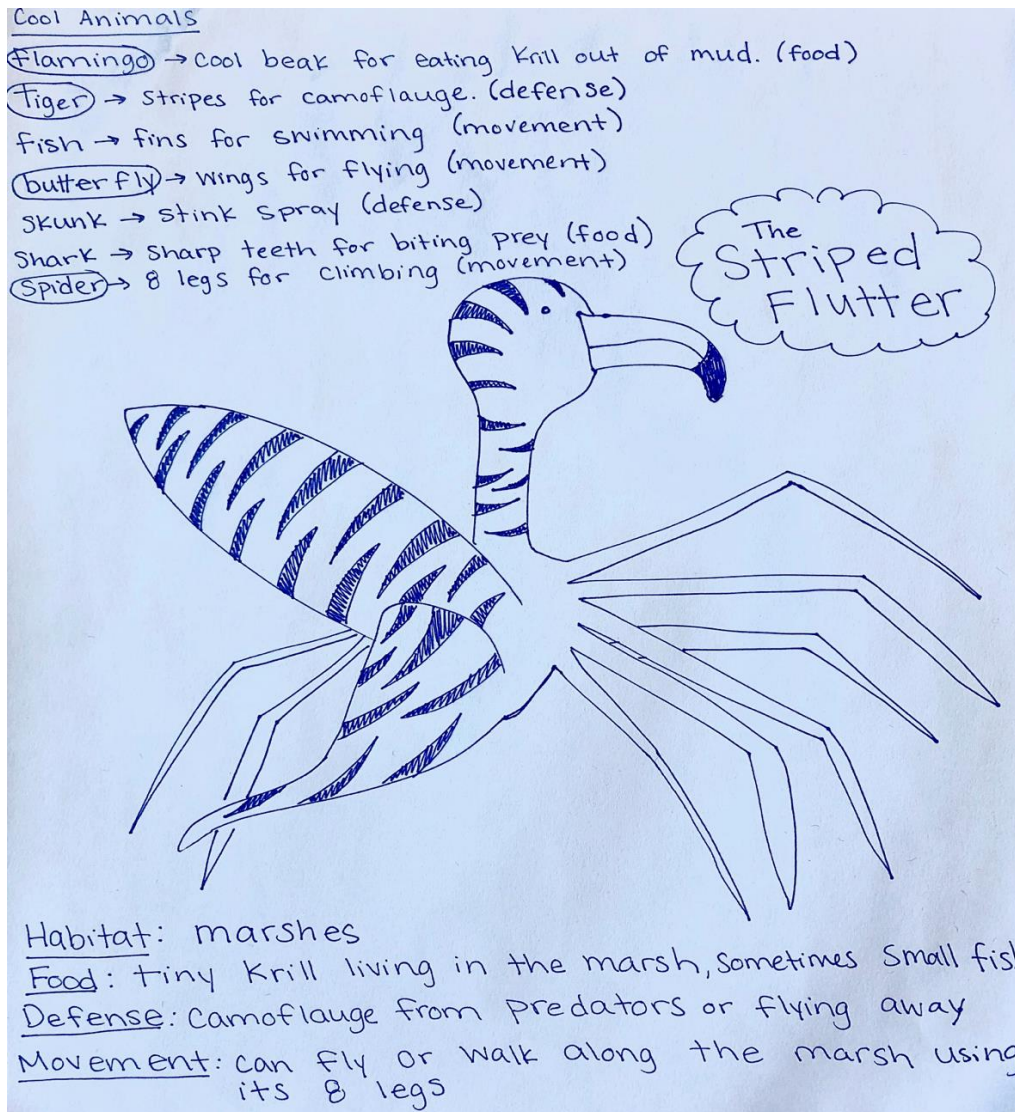
Nature at Home

Step 3. Once you have your three (or more) adaptations picked out, draw your animal on a piece of paper. Use your imagination; it's going to look silly!

Step 4. Write the name of your imaginary animal species at the top of your paper.

Step 5. At the bottom of your paper, describe the habitat your animal lives in along with what it eats, how it defends itself and how it moves around in its habitat. Include any other cool things about your animal that you would like to add.

Step 6. Show off your new animal species to your friends and family!



Reflection

1. Do you think your imaginary animal would make a good pet? Why?
2. What is an animal adaptation you wish you had?

Helpful Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SCVBkUcpOY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeLMWWrijV8>



Nature at Home