

The truth about... adaptation

An adaptation is a special skill which helps an animal to survive and do everything it needs to do.

Adaptations could be physical changes to the animals body or behavioural changes in how an individual animal or a society do things in their daily lives.



Meerkats have dark circles round their eyes, which act like sunglasses, helping them see even when the sun is shining very brightly.



Aye-eyes also have long bushy tails to help them balance and keep them warm.

Aye-eyes have a number of adaptations for nocturnal living (they tend to come out at night). They have big eyes and ears to help them see and hear well in the dark. They also have special thin fingers to help them find bugs and grubs to eat.



Many species adapt to their habitat to help them survive in difficult places.

Some monkeys, like our black and gold howler monkeys, have adapted their tail to be prehensile. They can use their tail to grip branches with like an extra arm or leg.



Some animals use camouflage colours to help them blend in with the background and stop predators seeing them. Sometimes predators also use it to avoid being spotted by their prey.