

SCIENCE WORLD

1455 Quebec Street
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scienceworld.ca

BACKGROUND SCIENCE:

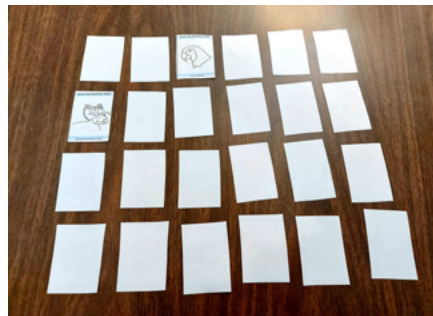
Animals have uniquely specialized body features that help them survive in the environments that they live in. Modern animals face many of the same survival challenges that dinosaurs did, and have similar physical features to help them find food and/or defend themselves from predators.

MATERIALS:

- [Animal Feature cards PDF](#)
- Printer
- Scissors

WHAT TO DO:

1. Print out the animal feature cards and cut them out.
 - a. For a bigger challenge, cut off the feature from the top of the card.
2. Shuffle the cards.
3. Place the cards face down on the table in a 4x6 grid.
4. Turn over two cards. Observe the two animals you have revealed.
 - a. If they have a common feature, leave them revealed. Make some observations and predictions about why they have developed that characteristic.
 - b. If they do not have a common feature, turn them face down again.
5. Repeat this process until all 24 cards have been matched.

**WONDERINGS:**

- With each correct match consider:
 - What challenges did the dinosaur face? How did the common feature help it survive?
 - What challenges does the living animal face? How does the common feature help them survive?
 - What other animals might have a similar challenge to face? Do they also have common features?
- Make some observations about other animals. Consider a feature on that animal and what its purpose might be. For example:
 - What purpose does blubber have on a whale?
 - Why do cats have retractable claws?
 - What other animals have head gear? Do they use it for the same reasons?
 - What could a feature on your favourite animal be for?
 - What animals live in your neighbourhood? What features do they have?

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BACKGROUND SCIENCE:

The environment that an animal lives in will affect how it lives and behaves. An animal will have features that are specifically designed for its environment. Consider how the webbed feet of a duck help it swim easier and faster and how the claws of an eagle help it grab fish out of the water. A stick bug camouflages with the tropical trees and bushes, and has hooks on the end of its legs to help it cling to branches.

MATERIALS:

- Your imagination
- Paper and a pencil
- (Optional) Craft supplies, such as: scissors, construction paper, cardboard, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, recycled containers (egg cartons, yogurt containers, milk cartons, toilet paper rolls, etc), ribbon, feathers, popsicle sticks, fabric scraps, glue, tape

WHAT TO DO:

You will be creating your own creature to survive in a habitat of your choice.

1. Choose a habitat for your creature.
 - a. For example: desert, ocean, jungle, forest, polar, grassland, wetland, mountain.
2. Research the habitat you chose: find the temperature, amount of light, water sources, food, and predators that live there.
3. (Optional) Using craft materials, create a model of the environment that you chose.
4. On a sheet of paper, design a unique creature that could live in that habitat. What features would your creature need to survive there? Draw your creature.
5. (Optional) Using craft materials, create a model of your creature. Think about how it moves, what it eats, and how it gets its food. Place it among your model habitat.

**WONDERINGS:**

- How do the features you've included on your creature help it to survive in your chosen habitat?
- Imagine a new type of habitat. What would a creature look and act like if it lived there?
- How do animals survive in extreme environments around the world? What features would they need?
- Examine the environments on other planets in our solar system. Imagine what special features animals (including humans!) might need to have in order to survive there.