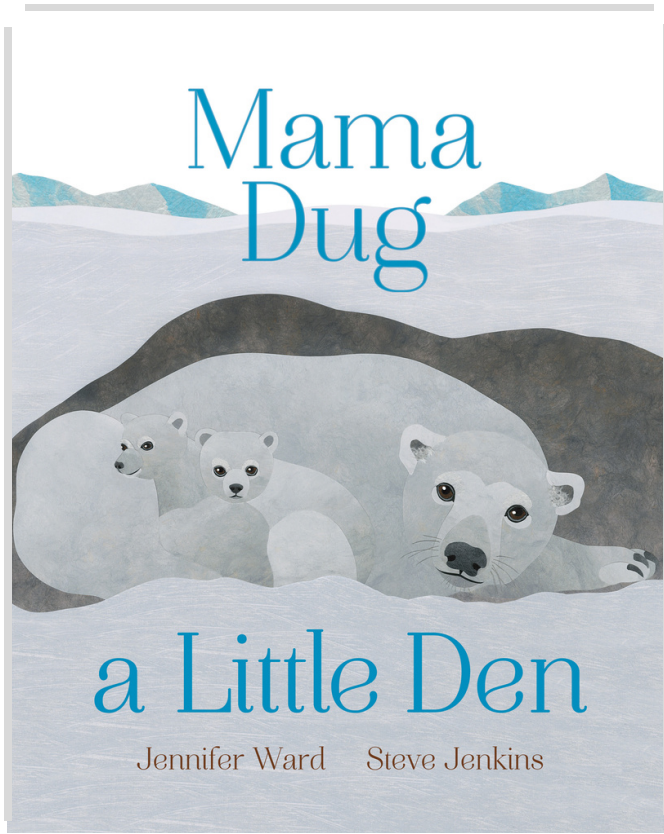


TOOLS FOR TEACHERS



Mama Dug a Little Den

by Jennifer Ward
illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Simon & Schuster / Beach Lane Books
ISBN 9781481480376

Creative story time,
discussion prompts &
research activities aligned
with science standards
& literacy!

MA Science Standards 2-LS Life Science

- *2-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity*

2-LS4-1 Use texts, media, or local environments to observe and compare (a) different kinds of living things in an area, and (b) differences in the kinds of living things living in different types of areas.

- Identify plants and animals (2-I.2)
- Identify mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians (2-I.3)
- Identify animals with and without backbones (2-I.4)
- **Observe traits (2-L.1)**
- **Observe and compare traits (2-L.5)**
- **Introduction to adaptations (2-L.6)**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Copy of *Mama Dug a Little Den*

Writing utensils / reproduced activity sheets

Access to research/media resources about the Gila monster, polar bear, red fox, sea turtle, skunk and tarantula (books, magazines, internet)

Pre-reading: show students the cover of *Mama Dug a Little Den*. Invite them to predict what the book is about based on the cover and the title.

Read the story aloud. Were any predictions correct?

After reading the book, introduce the term **adaptation** by writing it on chart paper. Explain that an adaptation is a **trait** a living thing has that helps it stay alive / survive in its habitat.

Ask students, “How might a polar bear’s fur help it survive in its cold, Arctic habitat?”

-helps to keep it warm

-its color blends in, or camouflages, with snow which might help it to not be seen when hunting for food

LET’S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

Invite students to take another look at the animals featured in *Mama Dug a Little Den* by simply turning each page, observing each species, without re-reading the story. Ask, “I wonder what traits some of these animals have that help them survive?”

LET’S DO SOME RESEARCH AND DIG DEEPER!

HOW MANY DIFFERENT TRAITS CAN WE DISCOVER FOR EACH ANIMAL?

Reproduce the following activity sheets which showcase a variety of animals from the book. Invite students to select an animal they are curious about (or randomly assign animals to students).

Students may work individually or with a partner.

Students will do research about their animal, document one trait for their animal and describe how that trait helps that animal survive in its habitat.

Culminate by inviting students to verbally share their animal’s trait and how it helps that animal survive.

An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

Polar Bear

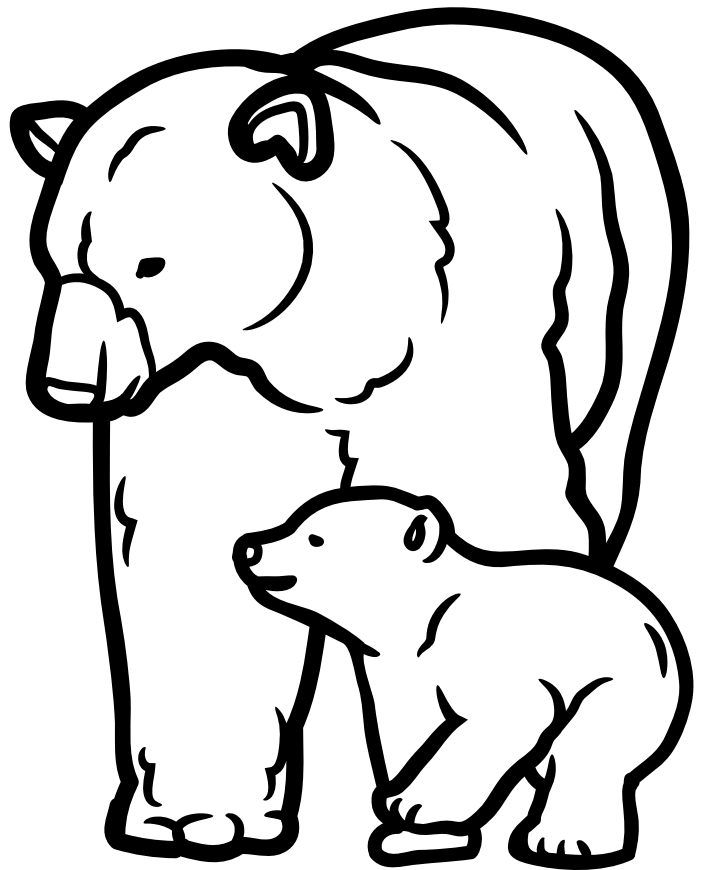
Habitat (where it lives):

TRAIT



How does this trait help the polar bear survive in its habitat?





An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

Skunk

Habitat (where it lives):

TRAIT



How does this trait help the skunk survive in its habitat?





An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

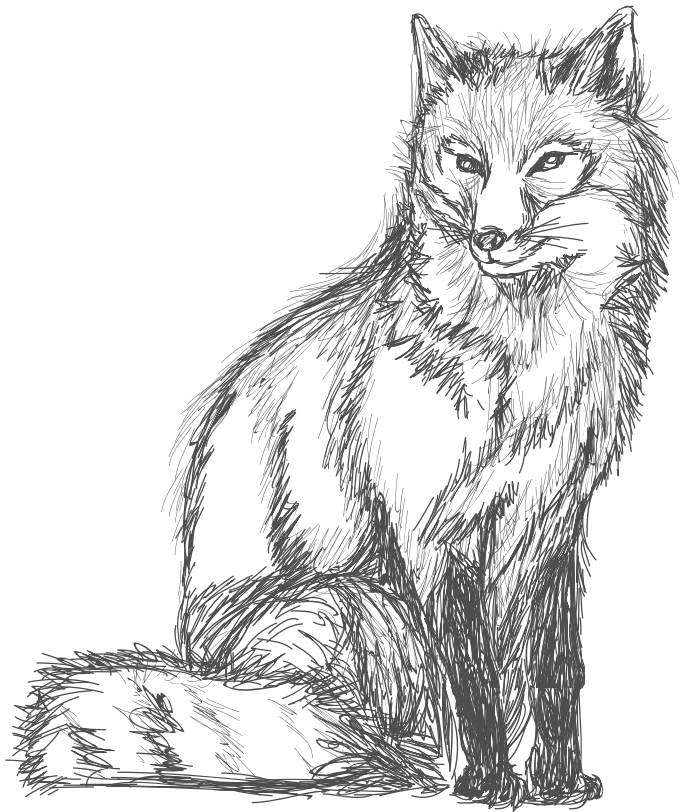
Red Fox

Habitat (where it lives):

TRAIT



How does this trait help the red fox survive in its habitat?

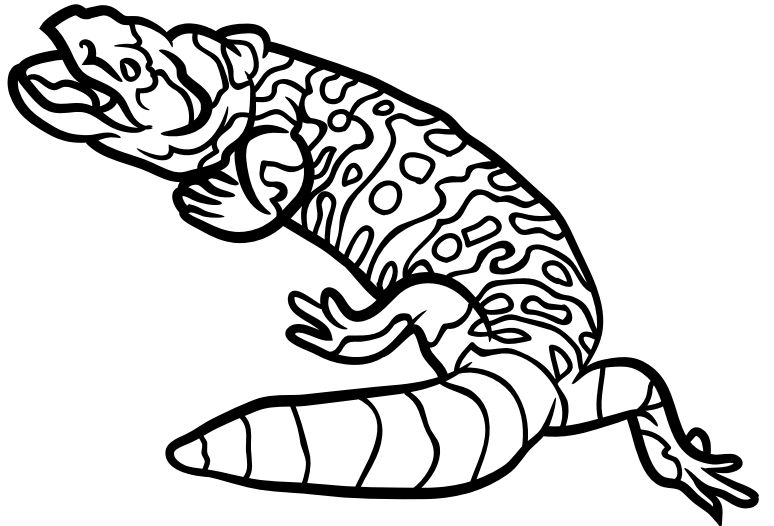


An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

Gila monster

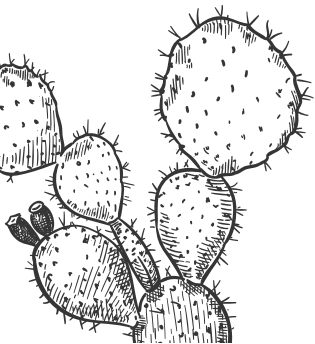
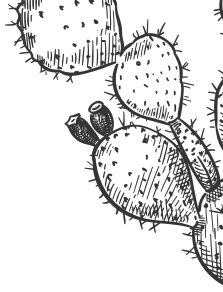
Habitat (where it lives):

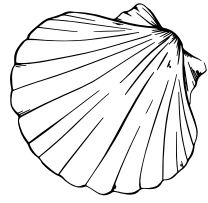
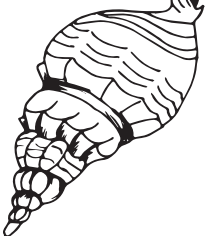
TRAIT



How does this trait help the Gila monster survive in its habitat?





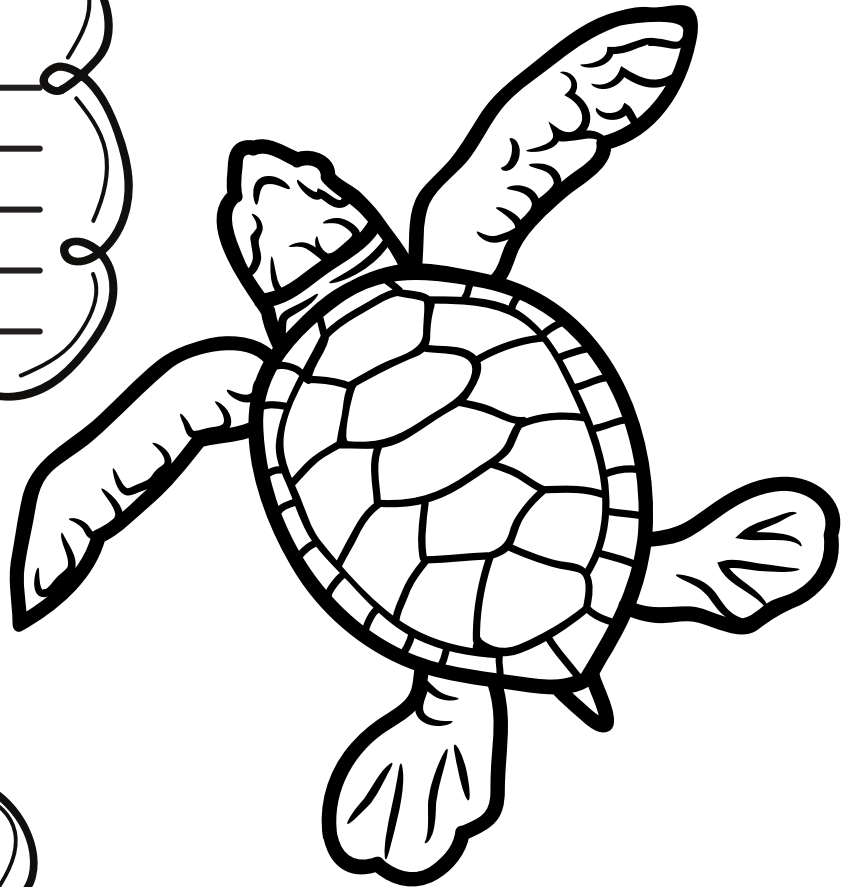


An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

Sea Turtle

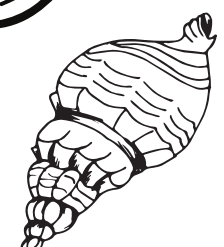
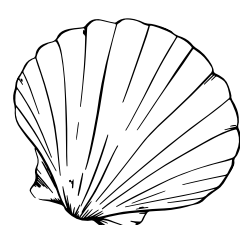
Habitat (where it lives):

TRAIT



How does this trait help the sea turtle survive in its habitat?



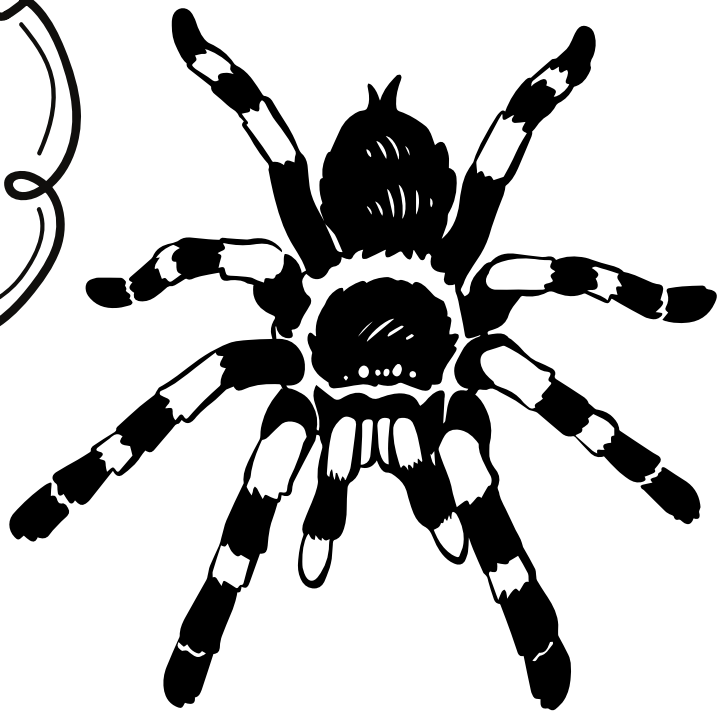


An **adaptation** is a trait that helps a living thing stay alive in its habitat.

Tarantula

Habitat (where it lives):

TRAIT



How does this trait help the tarantula survive in its habitat?



