

Grades K-2: Survival – Animal Features

Why are some birds colorful? How do monkeys use their tails? Observe three astounding animals at the Phoenix Zoo as we consider why they have certain features and how these features help them survive in the wild.

This Topic Includes:

- Three pre-recorded videos about the spider monkey, scarlet macaw and American alligator
- 15-minute virtual, live Q&A session with a Zoo Educator
 - This can take place before or after the students complete the review, worksheet and challenge activity. Have students prepare questions prior to your session start time!
 - Option to add a 15-minute virtual, live encounter with ambassador animals to your Q&A session for an additional fee
- Review activity
- Worksheet to accompany the videos
- Challenge activity

Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Identify how animals use specialized body parts to survive
- Explain how animals use their body parts to survive in their environment
- Compare and contrast offspring with the adult animal
- Evaluate why some animals survive in a certain environment and others do not

AZ Standards Alignment

Science:

K.L1U1.6 Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about how organisms use different body parts for survival.

K.L1U1.7 Observe, ask questions, and explain how specialized structures found on a variety of plants and animals (including humans) help them sense and respond to their environment.

1.L3U1.9 Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to support an evidence-based explanation that plants and animals produce offspring of the same kind, but offspring are generally not identical to each other or their parents.

2.L2U1.9 Obtain, analyze, and communicate evidence that organisms need a source of energy, air, water, and certain temperature conditions to survive.

Background Information and Vocabulary:

Animals use different parts of their body to help them survive in their environment. In the videos, we focused on the tail of the spider monkey, beak of the scarlet macaw and scales of the American alligator. Some animals can survive in tropical climates because they have body parts that allow them to easily climb large trees like the tail of the spider monkey. Others survive because their diet allows them easy access to available food, like the powerful beak of the scarlet macaw that can easily break hard shells of nuts. Other animals, like the American alligator, have to change their behavior and bask in the sun to keep warm.

The features on an animal's body also change as it grows older. For example, the young scarlet macaw's beak grows stronger over time so it can eat food without help from the adult macaws, and the spider monkey's tail is used to hold onto its mother before it can hold onto trees.

Rainforest: thick forests that get a lot of rainfall

Macaw: a large colorful member of the parrot family

Evergreen: a plant that keeps its green leaves all year

Scales: thin bony plates protecting the skin of some fish and reptiles

Bask: to lay out in the sun to get warm

Review Activity:

Directions: Show the pictures below and discuss the following questions as a class.



A spider monkey's tail



An alligator's scales



A scarlet macaw's beak

1. How does this body part help the animal survive?
2. Identify which one has fur, which one has feathers, and which one has scales.

Teacher Answer Key for Review Activity:



A spider monkey's tail can grab onto branches, which helps it gather food and swing through the trees. Monkeys are covered in fur.



An alligator's scales help protect it from predators both in the water and on land.



A scarlet macaw's beak is very strong which helps it break open hard nutshells and climb trees. Macaws are covered in colorful feathers.

Name: _____

Ultimate Tropical Animal Worksheet

Directions: In the videos, you learned about cool features of animals that help them survive in the tropical forest. Use the space below to draw your own Ultimate Tropical Animal and its baby!

Name of your Ultimate Tropical Animal: _____



Ultimate Survival Challenge

Directions: You have learned all about how animals survive in the tropical forest. How would a human survive in the tropical forest? Use the space below to draw what clothes and tools a human adult and baby would need.

