



# Wetlands Animal Adaptations!

A **habitat** is where animals live. Habitats provide food, water, and shelter that animals need to survive. Animals also depend on their physical features to help them find food, be safe, make their homes, withstand weather, and find mates. These features are called **physical adaptations**. Some examples of physical adaptations are: color of the fur, shape of nose or ears, horns or antlers that can be used to fight off predators, and chemicals or oils produced by the body that can ward off predators or provide an advantage like waterproofing the animal's fur.

Many animals also develop behaviors that defend them from being eaten by predators. These are called **behavioral adaptations**. Some examples of behavioral adaptations are: animals that never venture too far from their home so they can quickly hide and animals that are only active at night to avoid predators.

Animals that live in wetlands must have special physical and behavioral adaptations to survive because their habitat is a mixture of land and water with many different types of predators. Some examples of the adaptations of wetland animals are:

- Crawfish – breathes through gills; can see in different directions with their eyes that are on moveable stalks; emit chemicals to identify each other.
- Louisiana black bear – very good sense of smell; claws up to 9-12 inches long to catch and collect food such as fish, berries, and nuts; they can also use their claws to aid in climbing trees when their habitat is flooded

Other common adaptations seen in wetlands animals are webbed feet, a second clear eyelid that can act like goggles when swimming underwater, and camouflage coloring of fur or skin.

## What You Need:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- The Create a Wetland Animal activity page or a blank piece of paper.

## What To Do:

Create your own wetland animal using the “Create a Wetland Animal” activity page. Give your animal at least five adaptation that allow it to survive and thrive in Louisiana’s wetlands. Name your animal and describe the adaptations in the area provided.



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# Create a Wetland Animal

## Wetlands Animal Adaptations Activity Page

Draw your wetland animal in the box below.

My wetland animal's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Adaptation Descriptions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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