



Fifth Grade Science

Survivor

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Fifth Grade, during the study of plant and animal adaptation that will help them survive and some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

Survivor Unit

Students need to:

- identify internal and external features animals have to allow them to survive
- identify internal and external features plants have to allow them to survive
- analyze how animals gather and respond to information
- create a game that teaches others about how plants and/or animals are adapted for their environment.

Key Vocabulary

Adaptation – internal and external features as well as behaviors that allow an organism to aid in survival, growth, behavior and reproduction in its environment.

Attribute - characteristic or inherent part of someone or something

Behavior - all of the actions and reactions of an animal

Camouflage - the coloring or patterns on an animal's body that allow it to blend in with its environment

Capillary action - is the ability of a liquid to flow in narrow spaces without the assistance of, or even in opposition to, external forces like gravity.

Carnivore - an animal that eats only other animals

Consumer - an organism that eats other living things to get energy; an organism that does not produce its own food

Ecosystem - the living and nonliving things in an area that interact with each other

Environment - all the living and nonliving things that surround an organism

Habitat - the location in which an organism lives

Herbivore - an animal that consumes only plants

Invasive species – organisms that are non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm.

Migration - the movement of a group of organisms from one place to another, usually due to a change in seasons

Native - a species that occurs naturally within a region, either evolving there or arriving and becoming established without human assistance

Non-native - a species that does not occur naturally within a region, usually arriving and becoming established with deliberate or accidental human assistance

Omnivore - an animal that eats plants as well as other animals

Organism - any individual living thing

Predator - an animal that hunts and eats another animal

Prey - an animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal

Producer - an organism that makes its own food; an organism that does not consume other plants or animals

Species - a group of organisms that share similar characteristics and can mate with each other to produce offspring

Structure - a part of an organism

Survive - to continue living or existing: An organism survives until it dies; a species survives until it becomes extinct

Trait - a characteristic or property of an organism

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Use the Discovery Education link to find more information about how plants and animals have adapted to their environment that helps them thrive ([see the following page for log-in information](#)).
- Have your child identify what your family pet's learned and inherited behaviors. See if they can teach the pet a new trick.
- Have your child help you weed your garden of non-native invasive plants.
- Visit a zoo with your child and discuss how the animals have adapted to their environment.
- Build a bird feeder out of recycled materials for native birds and hang in your yard. Keep track of what type of birds are visiting.
- Go on a hike and see how many animal habitats you can find.
- Play i-spy native and non-native species with your child.