

Arctic animals

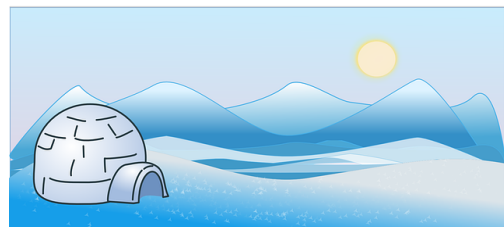
The arctic is very similar to the tundra. However, the arctic is actually the more icy and frozen area of the

North Pole. A tundra is typically found near the arctic and are where animals live. In the arctic, it is typically very cold, so very few animals or plants live here. Parts of Russia, Greenland, Canada, the U.S., Norway, Iceland, Finland, and Sweden own the arctic.

This polar region can be really cold. The coldest recorded temperature was -90°F . That is very cold! You can also find the large ice caps and tundra that is shrinking due to what scientists believe is called global warming. That means that scientists believe that the Earth is slowly warming up.

Near this region you can find polar bears, walruses, and seals. You can also find mosses and lichens, since other plants are too large to survive on such little nutrients

The adaptations these animals need to survive in the arctic are ways to stay warm. For example, most animals have thick fur. Some animals have blubber, a thick layer of fat, to keep them warm. Animals also need ways to stay safe since food is hard to find most animals are hunted. Since animals do not want to be eaten most animals have white fur so that they can blend in with their surroundings. They also live in dens which are underground homes where they can stay warm and hide from predators.



Tropical Animals

The tropical rainforests are one of the most important biomes on Earth. Around 40% of the world's oxygen, which is needed to breathe, comes from the rainforests. It is also here that 1/4 of our medicine is created.

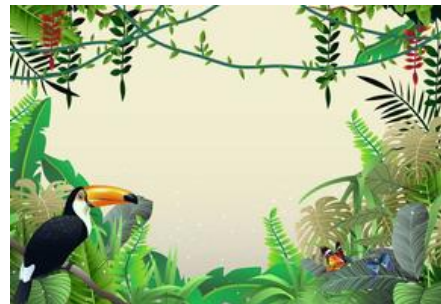
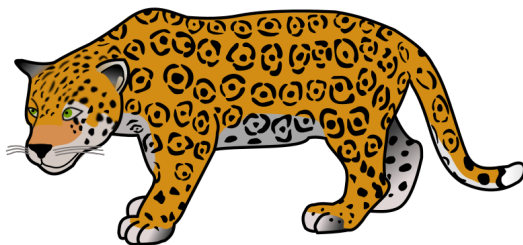
If you were to ever visit a tropical rainforest, you would definitely need an umbrella. It receives a large amount of rain and stays warm and humid most of the year.

However, you would definitely get a great view of all the unique and various wildlife that calls the rainforest their home. Here you can find jaguars, chameleons, snakes, turtles, and even colorful frogs.

The Amazon rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. Most rainforests are located near the equator and can be found in Asia, Africa, Central America, and the Pacific Islands.

Unfortunately, a large portion of rainforests have been destroyed. Every second a section the size of a football field is cut down.

Adaptations that animals in the rainforest need are ways to survive in a wet, hot climate. For examples animals use camouflage to blend in to the forest floor. Other animals are poisonous so that they won't be eaten. Most animals in the rain forest are smaller and faster than other animals. Most animals stay of the forest floor so animals that know how to climb or fly are at a better advantage for survival.



Savanna Animals

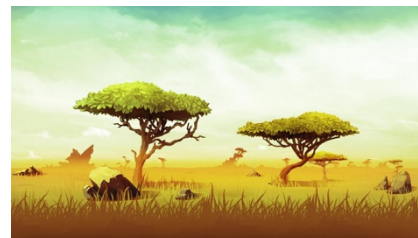
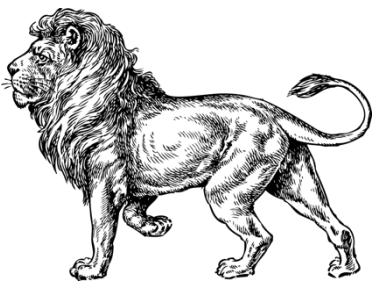
Savannas are tropical grasslands, and therefore have a lot in common with them. Since it is tropical, that means the temperatures are a bit different. In a savanna, there are two seasons – the dry season and the rainy season. It is warm all year, but typically cooler during the dryer season. During the rainy season it is humid and it usually receives 15 to 25 inches of rain.

Can you imagine seeing grasses taller than you are? Here grass can grow up to six feet tall! While there are scattered trees and shrubs, most of the area is covered with grasses such as Bermuda grass.

Just like in temperate grasslands, fires are needed to renew the land and create richer soil. The trees in a savanna have really thick bark so they can withstand the fires.

In savannas you can find large herds of elephants, lions, zebras, and giraffes. The fastest land animal, the cheetah, is also found here.

Adaptations that animals have to survive here by being able to make it through the dry season. Some animals are able to migrate or hibernate during these times. Most animals use camouflage to blend into their surroundings. Most animals are also nocturnal so they are active during the cooler nights.



Ocean Animals

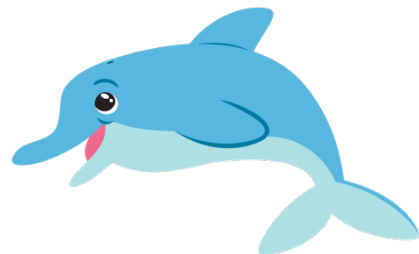
The ocean is primarily saltwater and is the largest biome on Earth. This biome covers 70% of the Earth's surface. In fact, it's so big, that it's really two biomes split into one – the marine biome and the coral reef biome.

Here in the ocean, you will find 90% of all life on Earth. The majority of these animals are invertebrate, meaning they do not have a backbone. Here you can find fish such as sharks, tuna, stingrays, eels, and sea horses. You can also find some marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales. Other animals include clams and squid.

With an average temperature of 39 °F, it's hard to believe that there is any plant life. However, there is seaweed and seagrass.

Living things of the ocean live in different zones. The farther down one travels in the ocean, the colder and darker it becomes. Very few living things can be found on the ocean floor. The ocean floor is approximately 12,400 feet away from the surface!

Adaptations for animals that live in the ocean need to be able to breath under water. Animals also need blubber to keep them warm when water gets cool. Some animals can migrate or hibernate when they need to survive. Some animals use camouflage to blend into the sea floor or hide in coral.



Wetland animals

What a wasteland! That's what is commonly heard in areas where wetlands are found. It is also sometimes referred to as swamplands. However, it is nothing like a wasteland! In fact, wetlands are important because they serve as a filter, purifying and cleaning water.

Any body of water that stays still and lies low is called a wetland. It is normally located near a river, lake, or stream and collects any extra water from when it rains. Since it depends on rainfall, the water levels vary throughout the year.

Wetlands have all kinds of animals, including pests such as mosquitoes. Mosquitoes love the humid climate. Other animals would include alligators, turtles, and cranes. There is often plant matter that helps feed any fish that may live here along with cattails and other grasses.

Wetlands are swamps, but they also include marshes and bogs.

Adaptations animals need to survive in the wetlands are things like being able to camouflage. You will see animals with unique markings so that they can blend in. Animals in wetlands also have webbed feet since the area is so wet. They also need to be able to survive when wetlands dry up



Desert Animals

When people think of the desert, they think of a really hot region with sand and tumbleweeds tossing through the breeze.

That vision is only partly true. Not all deserts have sand. While 1/3 of the Earth's surfaces are deserts, only 20% of those deserts are covered with sand.

Indeed, deserts are hot during the day time, but at night it can actually get really cold. Sometimes it will get so cold that water can freeze. That is, if there is water. One of the things that defines a desert is how little rain it gets. Usually deserts have less than 16 inches of rain in a year. That's incredibly dry!

The word "desert" once meant 'abandoned place' because there is very little life there. Very few plants and animals can survive in deserts, but it is home to lizards, coyotes, and rattlesnakes. You will also find various shrubs and cacti in the desert.

There are many deserts around our world such as the Sahara Desert, the Arabian Desert, and the Atacama Desert.

Some adaptations desert animals need are ways to survive when water supplies are low and food is hard to find. The most common desert animal is the camel. Adaptations for the camel are its hump which is just fat that builds up when it eats for days before traveling. The way camels hold water it with its "bags" that line their stomach and can store water for a few days between watering holes. After a long journey the camels hump is flat and droops to one side.

