

**Title:** Create A New Animal

**Grade Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

**Subject:** Biology

**Time:** 60- 90 minutes

**Objective:** Students will better understand physical adaptations of certain animals, and how those adaptations increase the animal's chances of survival.

**Illinois State Standards and Objectives:**

**12.A.2b** Categorize features as either inherited or learned.

**12.A.3c** Compare and contrast how different forms and structures reflect different functions.

**12.B.2a** Describe relationships among various organisms in their environments. (e.g. predator/prey, parasite/host, food chains, and food webs.

**12.B.2b** Identify physical features of plants and animals that help them live in different environments.

**12.B.3a** Identify and classify biotic and abiotic factors in an environment that affect population density, habitat and placement of organisms in an energy pyramid.

**12.B.3b** Compare and assess features of organisms for their adaptive, competitive, and survival potential

**Method:**

Begin a classroom discussion about how animals use physical characteristics and adaptations to their advantage. Define biotic and abiotic characteristics, learned and inherited features, and how features help increase an animal's chance of survival.

Next, use the Rainforest Library to have students research four different animals found in Costa Rica. Have students complete the Create A New Animal Worksheet, and use certain traits of animals found in the rainforest (or elsewhere, if needed) to create a new animal. The new animal must use the best physical characteristics of the researched animals to its advantage in speed/mobility, camouflage, food collection, and natural defenses. Also have students brainstorm other animals that the new animal could create a symbiotic relationship with.

## Create A New Animal!

Thousands of different animals make their home in the rainforest. Each animal has a unique set of features that allow it to survive. Physical features of animals often help the animal find food, reproduce, move, or keep from becoming other animals' food. Research four animals found in the Rainforest Library and describe their unique features.

1. The animals I chose to research are:

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2. These animals live (be specific, not just "rainforest!")

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3. These animals belong to this class (mammal, reptile, bird, etc.)

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3. These animals eat:

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3. A characteristic of one animal that helps it find food is:

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4. A feature that helps an animal move well is:

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5. One of the animals uses camouflage by:

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6. A natural defense that one of the animals uses well is:

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Now that we know a little bit about four specific animals, create a new animal using a combination of features. You'll have to know your animal well to complete the following.

The name of my animal is: \_\_\_\_\_

My animal belongs to this class. \_\_\_\_\_

I know that this animal belongs to this class, because \_\_\_\_\_

My animal lives in this habitat \_\_\_\_\_

One way my animal uses its habitat to its advantage is by \_\_\_\_\_

My animal eats \_\_\_\_\_

My animal collects its food from \_\_\_\_\_ by using this physical feature \_\_\_\_\_

My animal moves by using \_\_\_\_\_

My animal protect itself from predators by using \_\_\_\_\_

One way my animal uses camouflage is by \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of your animal on the back of this page. Make sure to label each physical feature you use, and what other animal that feature is borrowed from.