

Habitat Adaptations – Program Overview

| Gr. 4 - Gr. 8 |

Program Description

Have you ever wondered what it takes for an animal to survive in its habitat? Join a Surrey Nature Centre program leader to explore how animals adapt to their habitats with a special focus on one of Surrey's top predators, the coyote.

Students will leave understanding what an edge habitat is, why animal skulls are different and the crucial role they play in habitat adaptation.

Considerations

- This program is completely outdoors, rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.
- For your safety in the event of extreme weather conditions, this program will be adapted for an open area or rescheduled to another day.
- Public washrooms are available on-site - arrive early to make use of these facilities before the program begins.
- All vehicles parking in our lot will need to register their license plates inside the Nature Centre before the program.

Curriculum Focus Areas

Science Curricular Links

- Basic needs of animals: food, water, shelter, space.
- Names of local plants and animals.
- Water is essential to all living things.
- Structural features of living things in the local environment.
- Biodiversity in the local environment.
- Animals have features and behaviours to help them survive in their environment.
- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment.
- Stewardship.

Vocabulary

Adaptation – Changes, or the process of change, that helps an organism be better suited for its environment.

Diversity – Being composed of different elements or qualities; the condition or fact of being varied or different.

Edge Habitat – Where two or more different plant communities meet, creating a new distinct habitat (also known as a transition zone).

Evolution – A process of gradual change that takes place over many generations, during which species of animals and plants slowly change physical characteristics.

Generalist – An organism that thrives in a range of habitats (example, raccoon).

Habitat – The place where an organism makes its home; must provide adequate food, water, shelter, and space.

Natural Selection – The process by which organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring; believed to be the main process that brings about evolution.

Niche – A plant, animal, or other organisms' role within its habitat.

Specialist – An organism that thrives only in a narrow range of environmental conditions (ex, koala)

Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure you are checking the forecast in the days prior to your program and communicating with your students to ensure they are prepared.

Clothing Recommendations

We require students to wear **sturdy, closed-toe footwear** for all outdoor programs. During the winter and during rain, footwear should be waterproof.

We recommend that students wear **layers** in all weather.

For colder programs, wool is the best base layer (closest to skin) – it stays warm even if it gets wet! Students should also have an insulating layer, and wear a water-resistant outer layer, gloves, and a hat or toque. We have some rain ponchos on site; Should a student need to borrow one, please let us know at the beginning of your program.

For warmer program days, students should still bring a light jacket, or sweater, as temperatures can be significantly lower in the forest. Hats are always recommended.