

Animal Adaptations

Introduction

Animals are adapted to the habitat in which they live. Adaptations can be divided into two different types. Some adaptations are to do with the way animals act and others adaptations are characteristics of the animals body that help them to survive. The technical terms that are used to describe the two types of adaptations have been muddled up. Try and work out what the terms are by sorting out the anagrams below. (The letter that is underlined is the letter the word begins with)



Term 1 - Adaptations of the animal's anatomy e.g. Thick fur

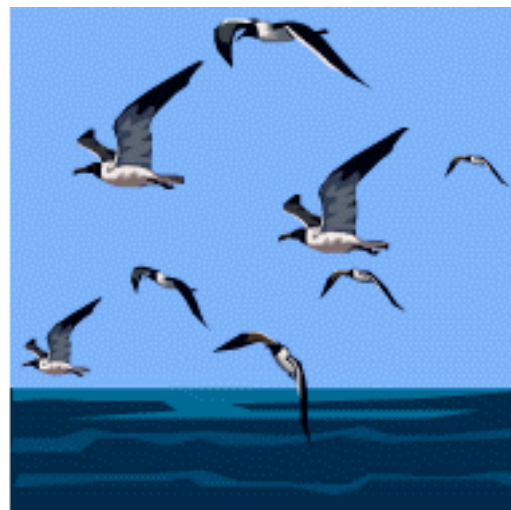
sicyphcal

Answer Physical

Term 2 – Adaptation to the way animals act e.g. migrating to warmer places

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Answer Behavioural



Adaptations to the cold

Find the **reindeer** on your map and go to visit them. Spend some time studying the animals carefully and reading the signs round the enclosure.

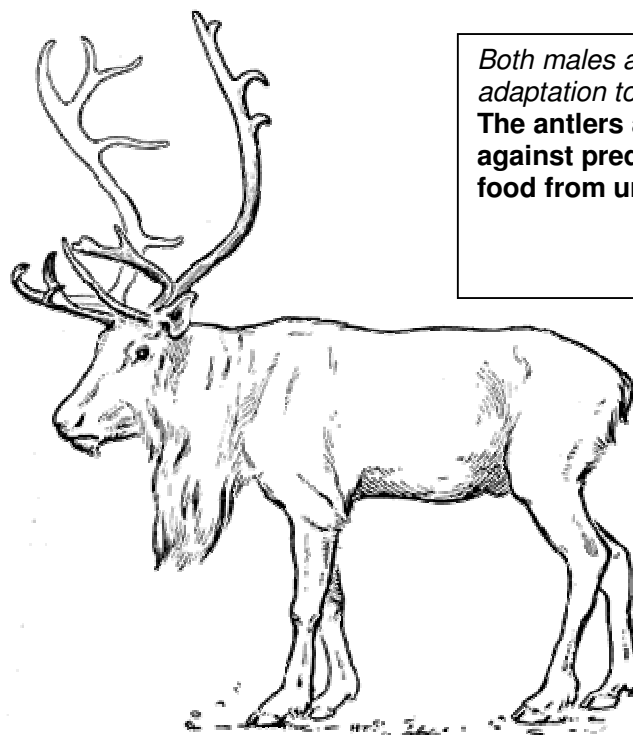
Activity 1 - Use your observations and the information from the signs to fill in the boxes around the reindeer below.

Activity 2 - Put a (*) star by the labels on your reindeer that are physical adaptations and draw a (Δ) triangle by the label that is a behavioural adaptation.

How are their noses adapted to the cold?

Their noses are covered in hair. This keeps the nose warm when they are rooting around in the snow for food.

*



Both males and females have antlers. How would they use this adaptation to survive?

The antlers are used to defend themselves and their young against predators. They will also use their antlers to dig up food from under the snow and ice.

*

How is their coat adapted?

The coat is made up of hollow hairs. This type of coat traps air to insulate them in the winter.

*

Reindeers live in herds. Why would this be an advantage?

There are more eyes watching out for predators and they will be able to warn others of any danger. A group of animals will work together to protect each other, especially their young.

Δ

How are reindeer's feet adapted and how does this adaptation help them to survive in their natural habitat? **Their feet spread out when the reindeer puts weight on them. This spreads their weight over a larger surface area so they don't sink so far down in the snow. They also have hard hooves which they use to dig up food.**

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Coping with the heat

Find the **camels** on your map and work out a route to get to them. Observe them and read the sign about the camels which can be found near the fence.

Activity 3 - Use your observations and the information from the signs to fill in the labels below about the camel and how it is adapted to the heat.

What are the humps for and how does this adaptation help them?

The humps store fat which can be broken to help the camel survive during hard times.

They have large feet with leathery soles. How would this adaptation help them in the desert?

Their large feet spread their body weight out over a larger surface area and stops them from sinking into the sand. The leathery soles provide protection from the hot sand and stop sensitive skin from being burnt.



Why would an animal that lives in a desert need a thick woolly coat?

In the desert it gets very cold at night so it important to have a thick coat to keep them warm at night.

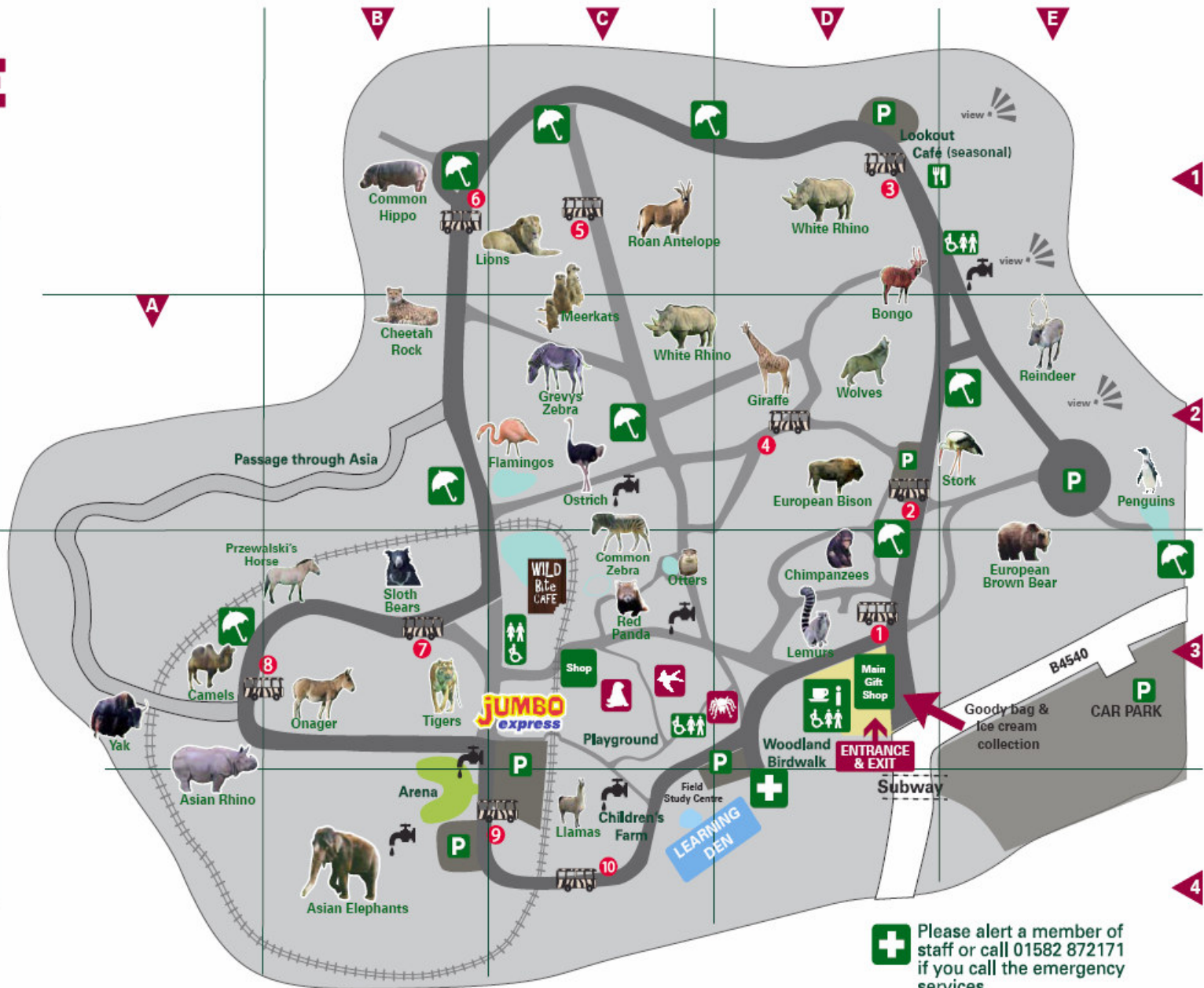
The hair also protects the skin from direct sun light so they don't get burnt.

ZSL WHIPSNADE ZOO

JUMBO express Steam train ride

Free tour bus-stop

- Discovery Centre
- Birds of the World
- Splashzone
- Disabled visitor's toilets
- Men's toilets
- Women's toilets
- Lunch Shelter
- Car Parking
- First Aid
- Food & drink
- Seasonal coffee bar
- Information
- Stand pipes for drinking water



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