

# Adaptations of the Organism

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## Animal & Plant Adaptation

### What is adaptation?

Adaptation is the [evolutionary](#) process whereby a population becomes better suited to its [habitat](#).

It is very important for an organism's survival. [Natural selection](#) plays an important role in the adaptation process. According to the change of abiotic factors like climate, weather, rain, organisms adapt themselves and can survive. This survival helps them to reproduce and increase their populations. Those who cannot adapt may fail to survive and slowly their population start decreasing one in a particular level it start becoming extinct.

These adaptations of organisms can be [physiological](#) or anatomical or [behavioral](#).

Let's now discuss each in detail:

### Physiological adaptations

Have you ever noted the raised hairs on your body like hands or legs during the rainy season or winter season? Or when you had a picnic in colder places? Why does it happen? Because when the mercury dips low the temperatures drop and involuntarily hair follicles raise by the actions of tiny muscles present at the base of each hair.

In the same way, if you are in a colder region without sweaters or scarf, what will happen? You automatically start shivering. Why? How does it happen? Heat created by this shivering between the muscle cells protects the tissues from freezing.

### Anatomical Responses

#### Animal Life

Organisms normally face the environmental changes by changing their anatomy. They grow heavy coats like fur or hair to protect them from cold. Tortoises have created a thick coat like a rock to escape from enemies. Porcupines have a strong needle-like skin which helps for protection. Chameleons change of color is also coming from these adaptive, anatomical changes.



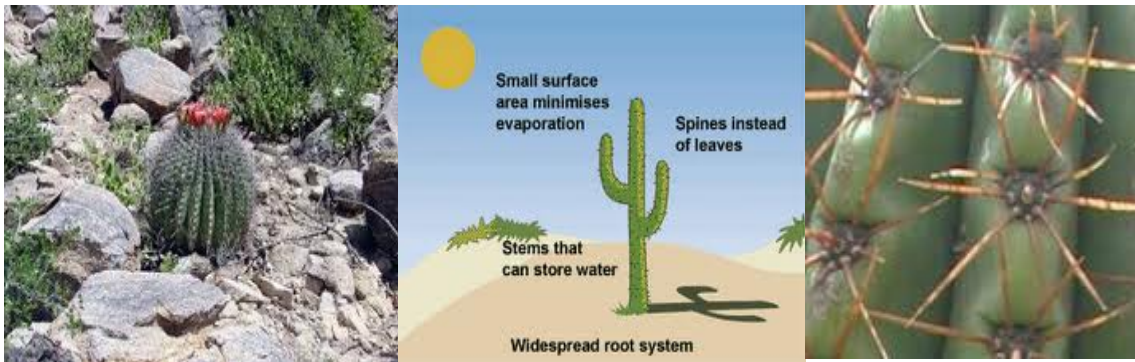
Animal Adaptations

#### Plant Life

Plants may create fine sharp needles rather than broad leaves to escape from loss of water in dry climates. In desert areas the availability of water is very less and sometimes almost nil. So plants need to save the water they intake. For this they may also

shed leaves. The fine thorn-like leaves protect them from loss water through transpiration and from enemies as well.

Growing towards light, changing energy allocations between [seed production](#) and starch storage in the roots, growing deeper roots in cases of drought are the other adaptations of the plants.



Plant adaptation in deserts

## Behavioral Responses

o Animal can migrate to more favorable conditions, in contrast to plants, in response to the environmental changes. They move on daily basis for food, water, light and get back to their own places. They may move seasonally like some birds' [migration](#) and fish's migration. We can define the [fish migration](#) as the regular journey of fish and [bird migration](#) as the regular seasonal journey undertaken by many species of birds.



Migration of Birds & Fish

The migration is based on change of climates and sometimes for reproduction purpose to animals move. It can be daily movements from shade to sunlight.

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## Reference Links:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptation>
- [http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco\\_info/topics/climate/adaptations/index.cfm](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/climate/adaptations/index.cfm)
- <http://www.mbgnet.net/bioplants/adapt.html>

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