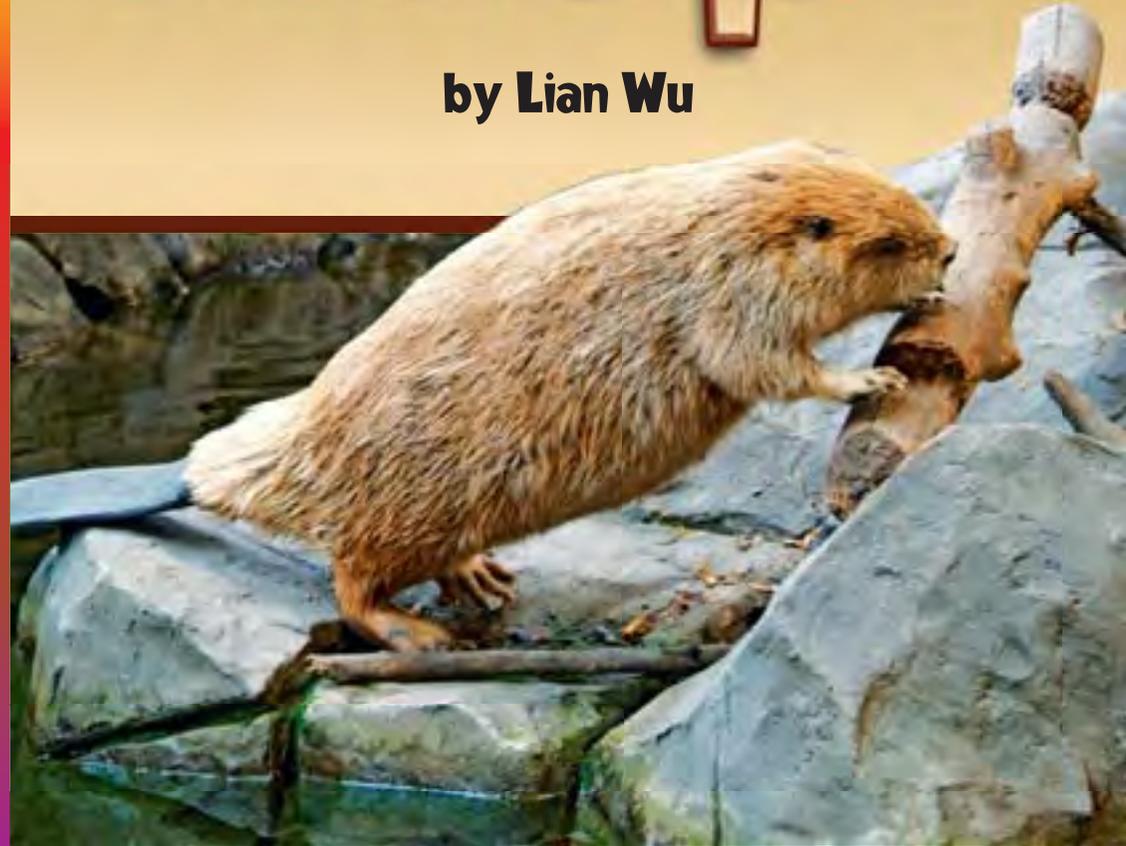


Animals Adapt

by Lian Wu



Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Animals Adapting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labels in Photographs • Definitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison Words

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Question of the Week

How have plants and animals adapted to solve problems?

Key Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

Concept Words

adapt	environment	scales
bark	surface	predator

Learning Goals

- Animals adapt to where they live to survive.
- Some animals have adapted to being under water.
- Some animals run away from predators.

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Animals Adapt



by Lian Wu



Glenview, Illinois • Boston, Massachusetts • Chandler, Arizona
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

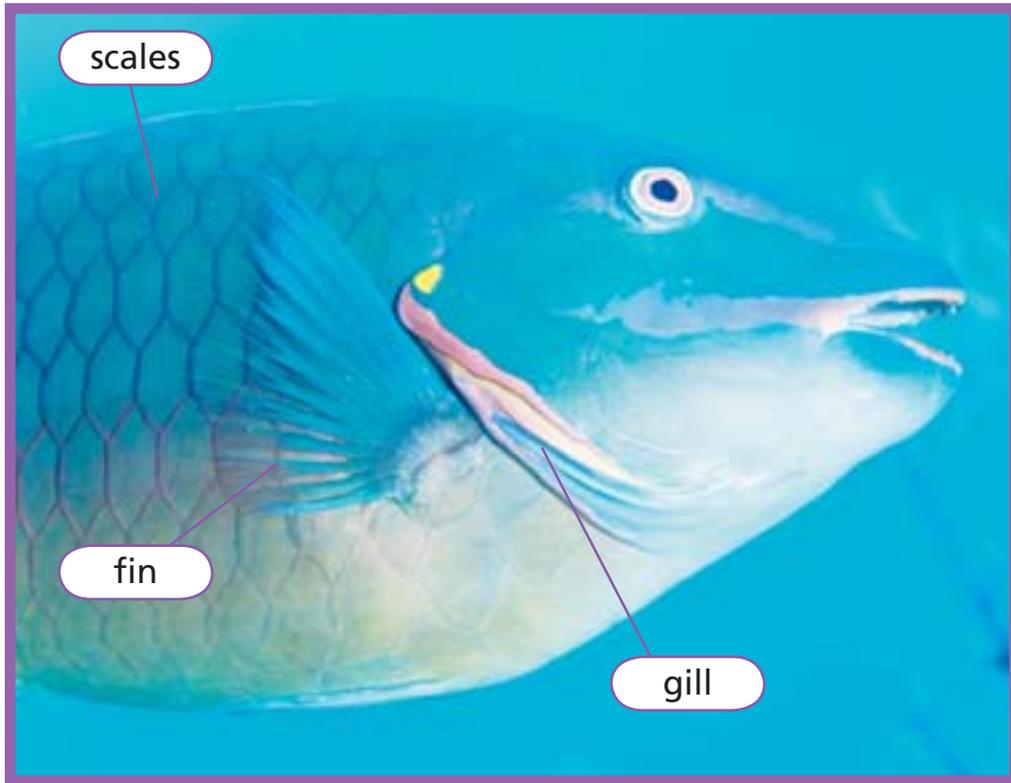


Animals **adapt** for many reasons.
Why do they adapt? Animals adapt to solve problems.
Animals adapt to where they live and to the weather.
Animals adapt in order to survive.

adapt: to change to fit different conditions

Plants and animals adapt to their **environment**. Lions adapted and have very strong teeth. This helps them eat prey such as zebras. But zebras also adapted. They have strong legs to help them run away from lions.

environment: the world around people, plants, and animals



Fish Adapt

Like other animals, fish adapted to survive. But fish adapted to live in an underwater environment. They need to move and breathe in water. Fish cannot survive on land. So they developed different body parts: fins, gills, and scales.

Fish developed fins to swim in water. They also developed gills to breathe in water. Fish take water into their gills to breathe. The gills take air out of the water for the fish's body. Fish have **scales** instead of skin to protect against the water.

scales: small, flat, bony pieces that cover a fish's body

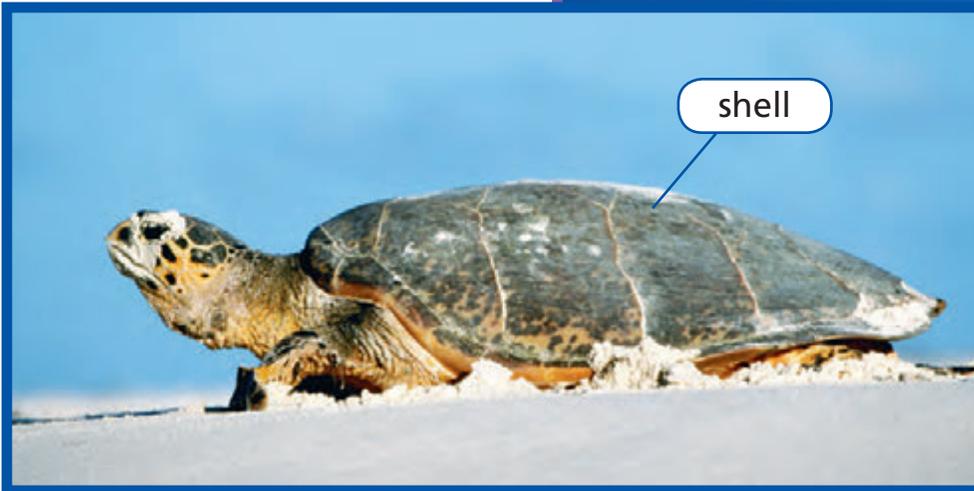


Beavers Adapt

Beavers live in rivers or lakes. Their thick fur help keep them warm. Their long, wide tails helps beavers swim. Beavers also have strong teeth that help them eat the **bark** of trees.

bark: rough, hard part of the wood on the outside of tree trunks

Beavers live in lodges. They build their lodges with twigs, branches, and leaves. Every year, beavers add new material to their homes. A beaver's lodge has an entrance at the bottom. Beavers swim in and out of the entrance.



Turtles Adapt

Turtles can walk on dry land. They are one of the slowest land animals. But turtles adapted in order to survive. Their shells became very hard. A turtle can protect itself by hiding in its hard shell.

Turtles can swim under the water. But they cannot breathe under water. The lungs of turtles adapted. They do not need air often. A turtle comes to the **surface** when it needs air.

surface: the top of the ground or the water



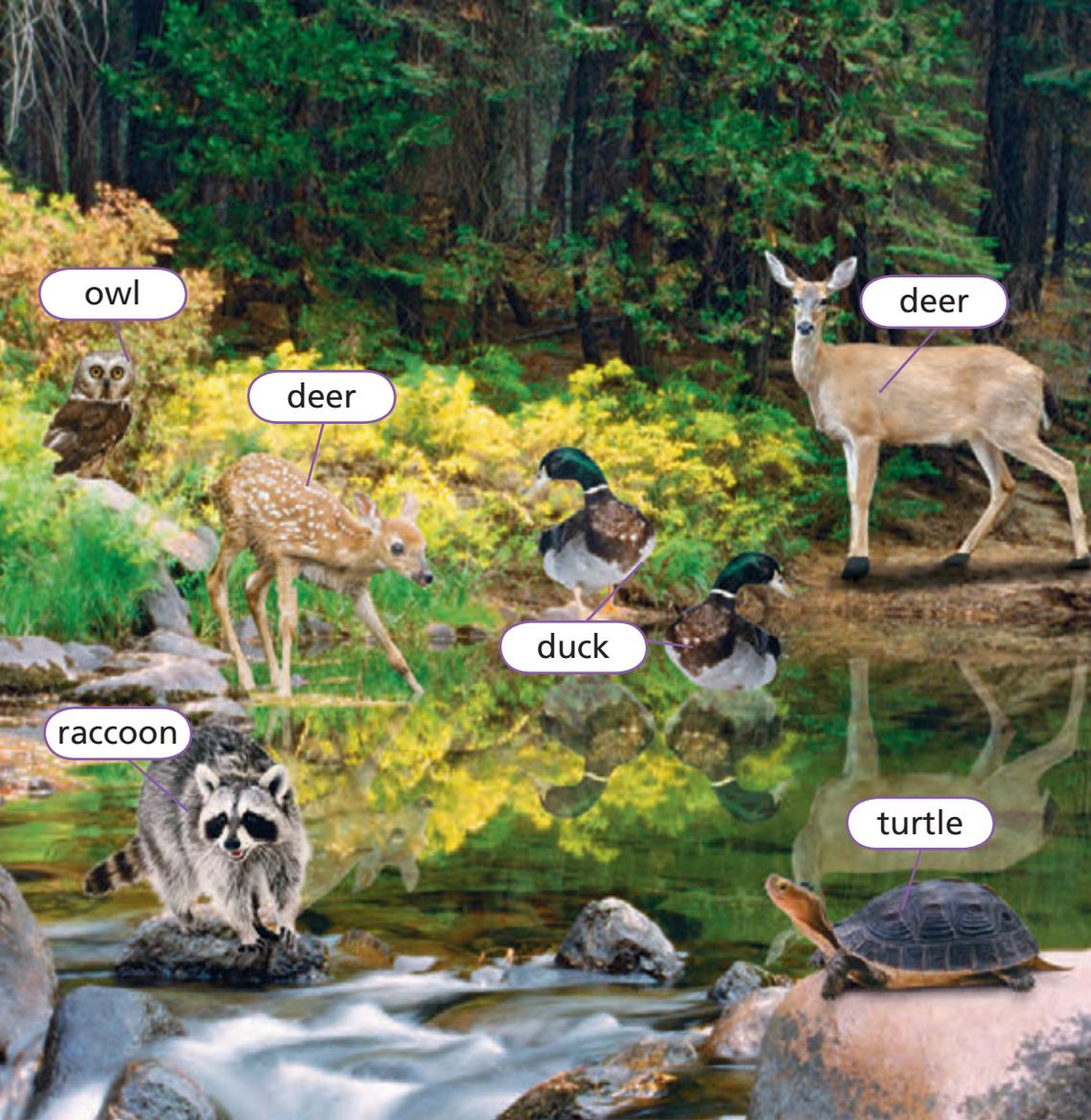
Rabbits Adapt

Rabbits are very small animals. But they have adapted to help stay safe. The ears of rabbits became very long. This helps them hear when a **predator** is near.

predator: an animal that hunts and eats other animals



Rabbits also have powerful legs. Their strong legs help them run away. When they hear another animal coming, they run away fast. Many predators cannot catch a quick rabbit.



Talk About It

1. How are the teeth of beavers and the teeth of lions similar? How are they different?
2. Turtles walk so slowly that most animals could catch them. How have turtles solved this problem?

Write About It

3. Make a chart about how animals have adapted. First, name the animal, and then write the name of the body part that has adapted. The first one has been done for you.

Animal	Body Part
rabbit	ears

Extend Language

The word ending *-est* describes something that is unlike any other. By adding *-est* to word *tall*, you make the word *tallest*. Add the ending *-est* to the words *long* and *slow*.

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Think about the animals you see everyday. Now think about the environment they live in. How do you think these animals adapted in order to survive?