

Name:

Date:

Adaptations and Habitats – Amazing Animals

Some animals have some truly bizarre adaptations! Can you match the adaptation to the animal?



A very long and thin finger, with a sharp nail for hooking.

Long legs like stilts for running easily in difficult ground.

Teeth that close outside the mouth to stop dirt getting in when eating.

Tiny hairs on the pads of their feet for sticking on to different surfaces.

Long, strong claws to hold onto big branches.



Geckos climb through bushes and trees and over rocks to find food.

Maned wolves hunt for food in the long, thick grass.

Sloths spend time hanging from branches.

Aye-ayes eat insects hidden deep in holes in the bark of trees.

Naked mole-rats dig through the ground to find plants to eat.

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Adaptations and Habitats – Amazing Animals Answers

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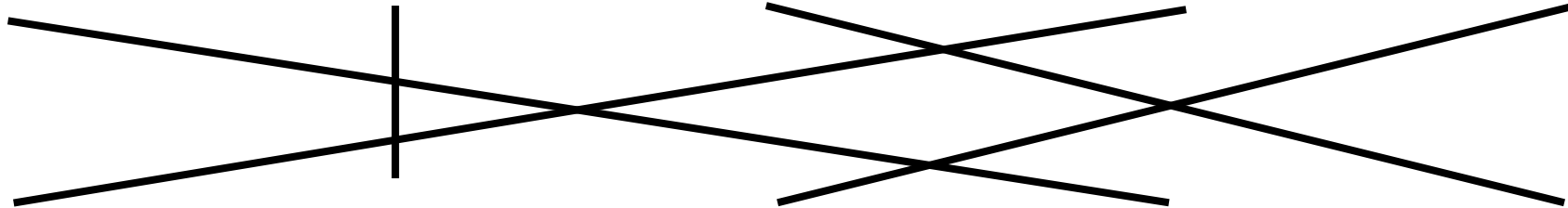
A long and thin finger

Long legs like stilts

Teeth that close outside

Tiny hairs on their feet

Long, strong claws



Geckos

Maned wolves

Sloths

Aye-eyes

Naked mole-rats

Did you work them out?

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Extension

Aye-ayes come from the island of Madagascar. They are specially *adapted* for finding grubs deep inside wood. They then use their strong teeth to rip through the wood and their especially long finger to reach the grub and pull it out for dinner. In the UK, we have a type of bird that is adapted to eat in a similar way. Can you work out which type of bird it is?



Golden eagles have hooked beaks for slicing the flesh of mammals and birds.



Bullfinches use their strong beak for crushing seeds and buds on trees.



Woodpeckers use their long beak to peck into wood to find insects inside.



Ducks use their bills to sift through water looking for snails, insects and plants.



Pheasants use their short beak to find grain, seeds and insects on the ground.

Which bird has adapted to find food in a similar way to the aye-aye? _____

When it was discovered by Europeans, the aye-aye's strong bark-chewing teeth reminded scientists of lots of other animals. Can you think of an animal famous for its ability to chew on wood?

(Clue: it begins with 'b') _____

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Extension – Answers

The beak of a woodpecker is a lot like the aye-aye's finger – a long thin body part designed to reach into tree bark and pull out grubs to eat.

The beaver is famous for its strong pair of front teeth for chewing or 'gnawing' on tree bark.

Local people had of course known about the aye-aye for centuries, but European scientists were confused when aye-ayes were first shown to them. The animal had big bat-like ears and came out at night, but had the body of a squirrel. They thought it was a type of rodent, like a mouse, rat, squirrel or beaver, because of its large front teeth which continuously grow throughout their lives. All rodents have this feature. It was only later on it was discovered that it was a very specially adapted type of lemur. It has so many bizarre and unusual features!

The more you learn about animals, the more strange and bizarre adaptations you discover! Did you know some lizards squirt blood out of their eyes to scare predators? Or that the star-nosed mole has a nose that looks like a squishy, pink hand for detecting food in the pitch black soil?

What weird and wonderful adaptations can you find?