

Acquired Characteristics

You now know that organisms including humans **inherit characteristics** from their parents. Zebras inherit stripes, leopards inherit spots and humans inherit hair and eye colour. Daffodils inherit yellow petals.

As well as inheriting characteristics we can also **acquire characteristics**. These are skills we learn or develop as we live in our environment.

Watch the film on Acquired characteristics: <https://www.tigtagworld.co.uk/film/acquired-characteristics-PRM00166/>

Make a list

Get everyone in your house to make a full list of all the characteristics they have acquired during their life so far. They'll be long lists!! Add to it during the week as you remember all the acquired characteristics you take for granted.

Who has acquired the most skills? Why?

Which acquired skills do you all have in common? In my house everyone can make an excellent cup of tea, drive a car and use a fork.

Can everyone work the washing machine? Just wondering ?!?

Now write a list of new characteristics you want to acquire? Learning Spanish and riding a unicycle are two skills on my list.

We can also **ADAPT** to our environment too!

Watch these films to see how some animals have adapted over time (evolved) to survive in their environment (habitat).

<https://www.tigtagworld.co.uk/film/adaptation-PRM00123/> <https://www.tigtagworld.co.uk/film/snub-nosed-monkey-PRM00124/>

Imagine you are journeying through these different environments:

1. diving at a coral reef
2. trekking through deserts
3. living in the Arctic



Draw a human that has adapted to each of these places, thinking about what they would need to do, wear or carry with them to survive in each new environment. Also draw an animal and a plant that might be found in that environment.

Post your drawings on the blog so that we can compare and discuss your different adaption ideas.

Animals and plants (including humans) can permanently adapt to their environments, this is called **EVOLUTION**. Evolution takes place over a long period of time—it does not happen quickly.

Camouflage

Some animals adapt to their environment by blending in because it either protects the animal from being eaten by predators, or enables them to sneak up on their prey.



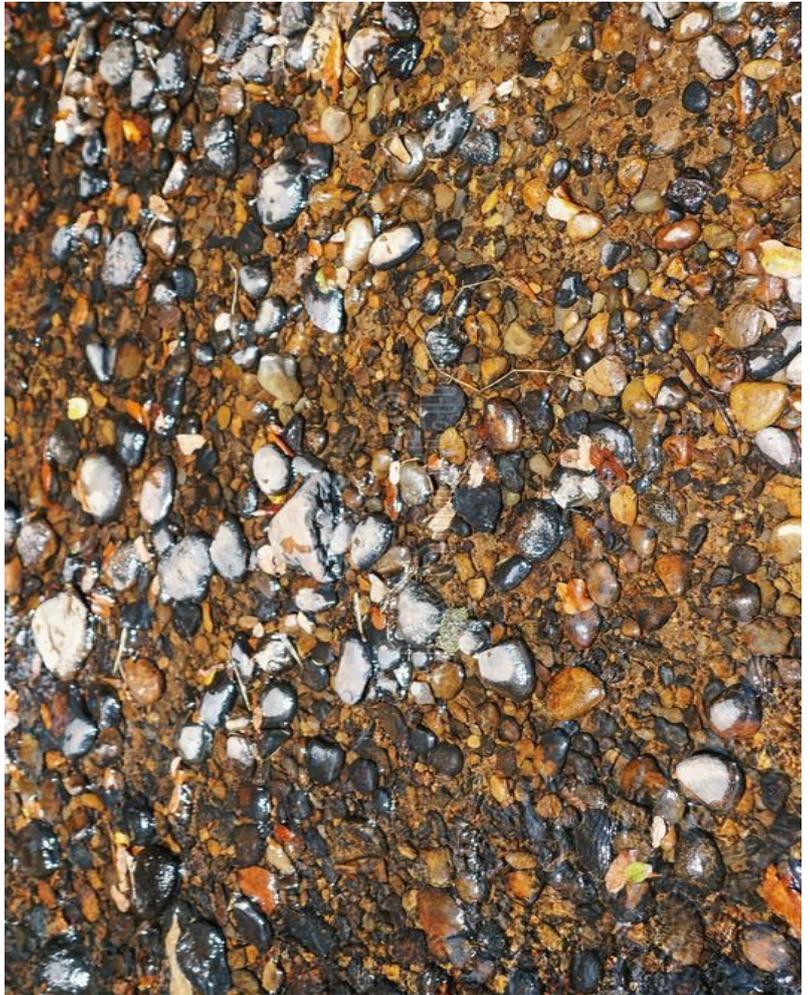
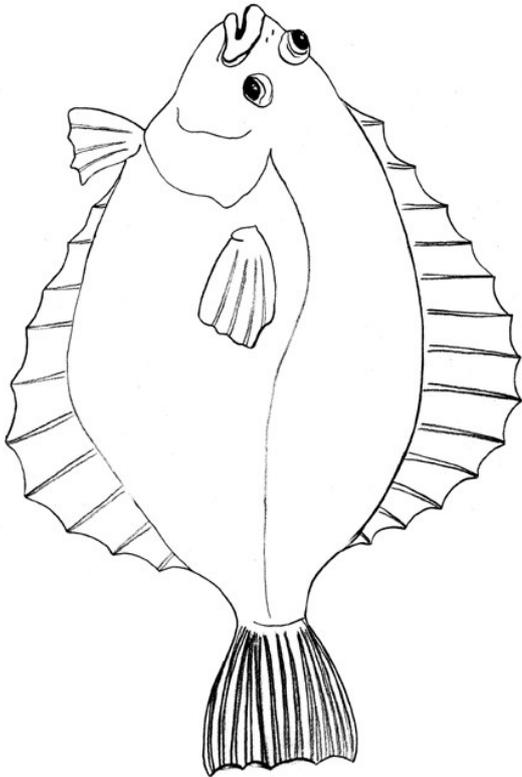
Can you spot the creatures in each picture?

Now try out the camouflage activities over the page.

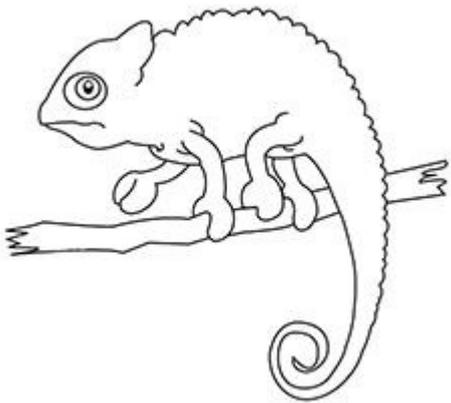
Hide this Flounder in his gravel seabed environment.

We should not be able to spot it, if you have camouflaged it well.

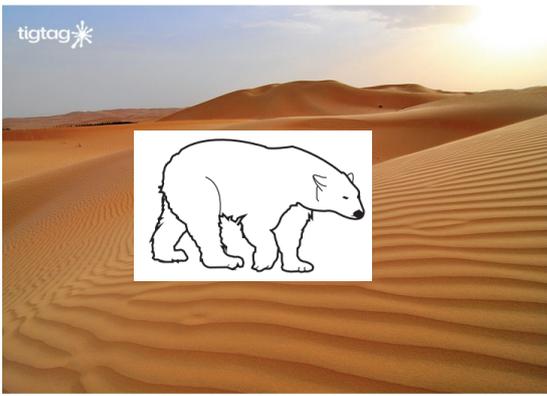
Save on printing—draw your own!



This Chameleon gets about - you need to adapt him (colour it differently) to be hidden in each of the three different environments.



Post your pictures on the blog and we'll see if we can spot them!!



We know that animals adapt to live in their habitats. What would happen if they suddenly found themselves in a new habitat?

Discuss and write down what you think would happen to each of these animals if they woke up in these very different habitats.

Explain why.

Polar Bear

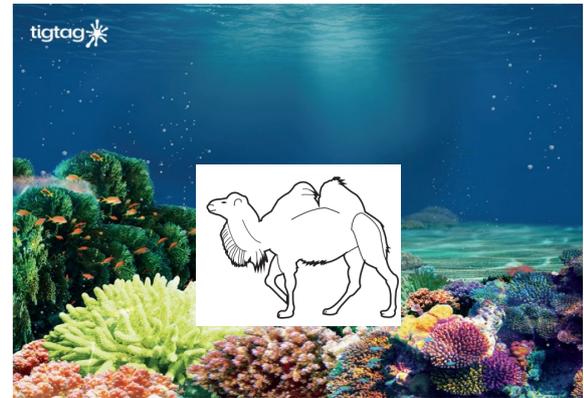
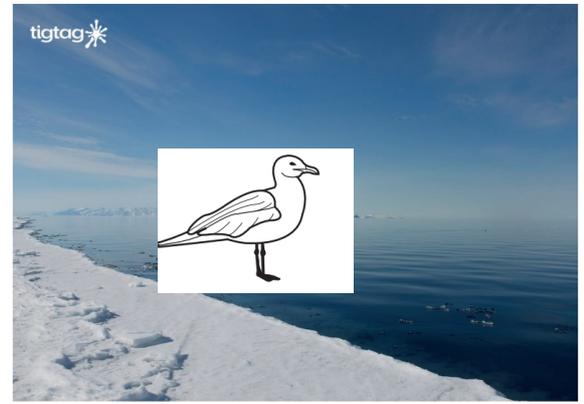
Reef Shark

Seagull

Camel

Adapting to an environment takes many generations—evolution.

Do you think any of these animals could make small adaptations to survive?



Choose an animal—research your animal and its specific adaptations - Make a poster.

Draw the animal and annotate (label) the drawing with details of its adaptations.

Remember: **high quality** layout, drawings and labels.

Example: Look at the poster of the camel to see how many ways it has adapted to its environment over time.



Adaptations of a camel

