

# Animals and Plants



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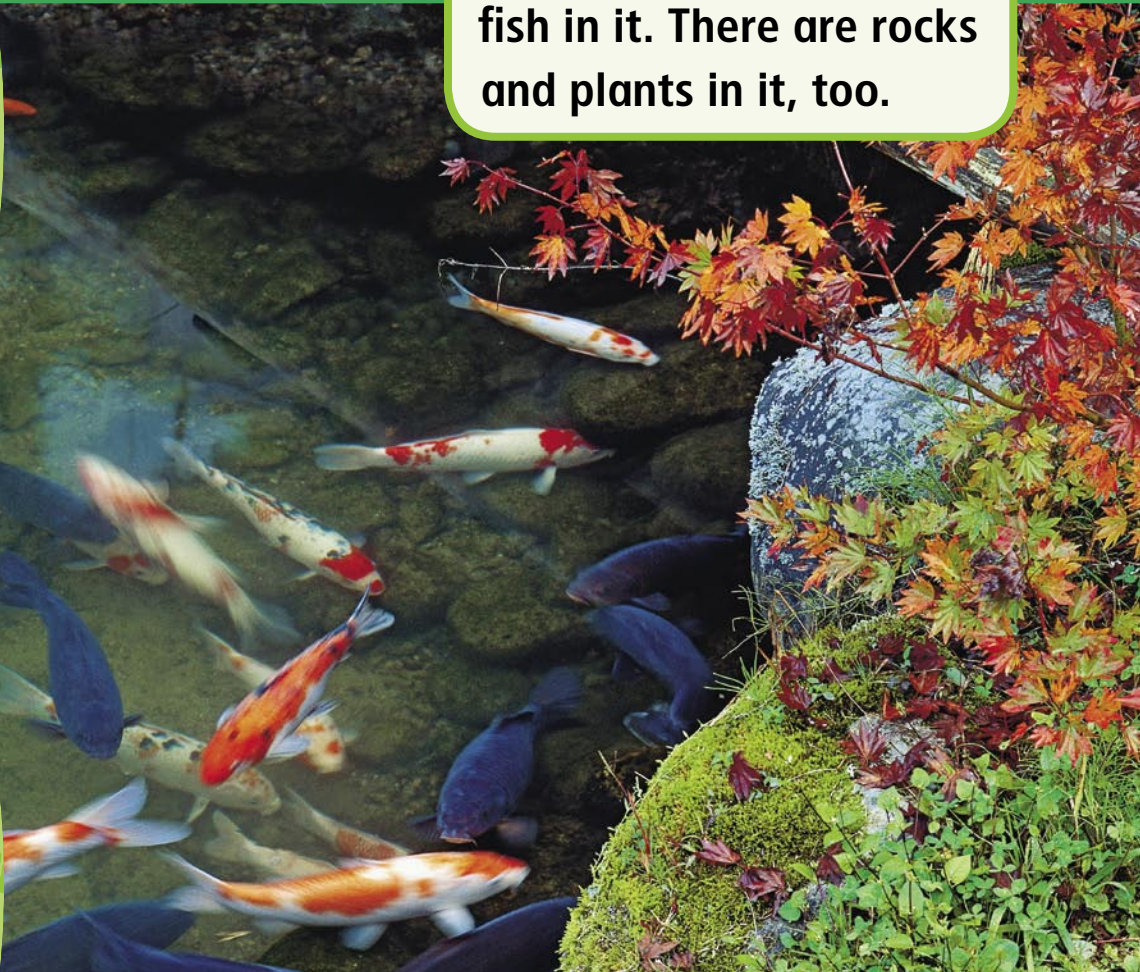
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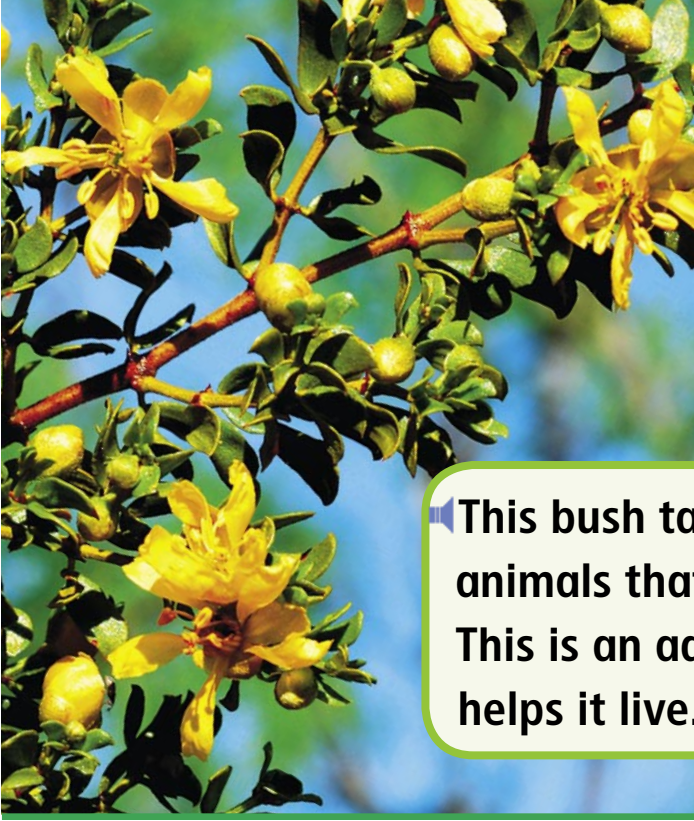
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# Environment and Adaptations

🔊 Do you know what an **environment** is? It is made up of all the things in a place. It has living things, such as plants and animals. It has nonliving things, such as rocks and water.

🔊 This environment has fish in it. There are rocks and plants in it, too.





▶ This bush tastes bad to the animals that want to eat it. This is an adaptation that helps it live.

▶ An **adaptation** is a body part or behavior that helps a living thing.

▶ Some plants have adaptations. Thorns on blackberries stop animals from eating them. Waxy coverings on desert cactus plants help them store water.



**MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** Water in a pond is nonliving. A fish in the same pond is living. Are they part of the same environment? Why?

# Animals Have Adaptations

▶ Animals have adaptations, too. Some adaptations make eating easy. A strong beak helps a woodpecker find food in a tree.

▶ Some adaptations help animals move. Webbed feet help ducks swim.



▶ Fish have scales that bend. The scales help fish move through water.



▶ The lizard looks like the branch it is on. This is camouflage.

▶ Some adaptations keep animals safe. Sharp quills on a porcupine keep other animals away.

▶ Some adaptations help animals stay safe or find food. **Camouflage** is an animal's color or pattern that helps it hide.

***Fast Fact***

▶ Sharks have an adaptation called gills. Gills allow sharks and other fish to breathe underwater.



**COMPARE AND CONTRAST** How are a fish's scales like duck's feet?

# Animals Help Plants

Plants and animals need each other. Bees carry pollen from one flower to another. **Pollen** is a powder that flowers need to make seeds. Pollen helps plants make new plants. Plants need bees.

Bees like purple, blue, and yellow flowers best.



## ***Fast Fact***

Bees buzz, but they are not talking. Their wings move back and forth very fast. That makes the buzzing sound that we hear.



▶ Sometimes animals carry seeds in their fur. They take the seeds to new places. Bears, foxes, and wolves carry seeds like this. Then these seeds can grow into new plants.

▶  **SEQUENCE** What can happen to a seed after a wolf carries it away from a plant?

▶ Burrs from plants stick to this fox's fur as it walks. The burrs drop off and new plants grow.



# Plants Help Animals

- ▶ Plants help animals in many ways. Animals use plants to make homes. A bird makes a nest from leaves and twigs.
- ▶ Animals can also hide in plants. Some snakes climb trees and hide there.


▶ This nest took time to build. The bird used different kinds of plants.





▶ This caterpillar was hungry!

- ▶ Some animals use plants for food. Caterpillars eat leaves. Cows eat corn.
- ▶ **Oxygen** is a kind of gas that is in air. Animals need to breathe oxygen to live. Plants give off oxygen.

▶  **MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** What do plants do to help animals breathe?

***Fast Fact***

- ▶ The largest bird's nest was built by bald eagles in Florida. It was 9 feet 6 inches (2.9 meters) wide and 20 feet (6 meters) deep.

# Animals Help Animals

▶ Animals need other animals, too. Some young animals need their parents. Some parents feed their young. Some parents keep their young safe.

▶ This kangaroo keeps her young safe in her pouch.





Some animals eat other animals. A pelican's long beak helps it hunt for fish.








**MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** How do some parents help their young after they are born?


## Summary

Plants and animals have adaptations. Their adaptations help them live in their environments. Plants help animals. Animals help plants. Animals help other animals, too.

## **Glossary**

-  **adaptation** A body part or behavior that helps a living thing (3, 4, 5, 11)
-  **camouflage** A kind of adaptation where an animal's color or pattern helps it hide (5, 11)
-  **environment** All the things that are in a place (2, 3, 11)
-  **oxygen** A kind of gas that plants give off and animals need to breathe (9)
-  **pollen** A powder that flowers need to make seeds (6)

## ▶ **Think and Write**

- ▶ **1.** Tell what you know about how plants and animals help each other.
- ▶ **2. MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS**  
How might a bear's fur help plants?
- ▶ **3. COMPARE AND CONTRAST** How is a lizard's color like rose thorns?
- ▶  **4.** Write a thank you letter from an animal to a plant.

## ▶ **Hands-On Activity**

With a partner, draw a picture of an environment. Include both living and nonliving things.

## ▶ **School-Home Connection**

Share this reader with a family member. Make a list of the ways plants help you.