

# ADAPTATION & NATURAL SELECTION

All around us are organisms that seem almost perfect for their respective environments. From the woodpecker's beak to the specialized echolocation systems used by bats, many life forms have a wide variety of characteristics that allow them to effectively survive in their particular surroundings.

\*\* An adult frog lays hundreds of eggs at one time.

- \* Many of these eggs will hatch, but few actually survive into adulthood.
- \* Many are eaten by larger animals while they are still tadpoles.
- \* The tadpoles who are the 'fittest' will survive.
- \* These tadpoles might be faster swimmers, or they are colored so to blend in with the pond more.
- \* These tadpoles will survive longer than others who are not fast swimmers or not colored as well.
- \* The ones that do survive have more chance of reproducing and therefore passing on the characteristics of being a faster swimmer and camouflaged coloring.
- \* Eventually, the pond will be full of faster swimmers and tadpoles that blend!

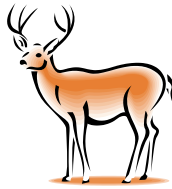
This is the process of **natural selection** and **adaptation**.

**ADAPTATION:** a behavior or characteristic that has developed over time that allows a species to live successfully in its environment.

**DIRECTIONS:** For the animals pictured in the boxes below, Think of (and write) at least 3 adaptations they have and **HOW** this adaptation helps them survive in their environment.

## White-tailed Deer

Adaptations:



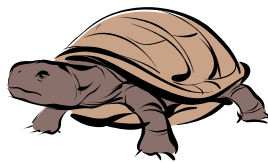
## Skunk

Adaptations:



## Box Turtle

Adaptations:



## Porcupine

Adaptations:



## Woodpecker

Adaptations:



## Rabbit

Adaptations:

