**Adaptation & Survival Program**

**RSABG Visitor Education**

*How are plants and animals adapted to survive in different environments?*

**Grades 3-5**

Adapted to meet California Next Generation Science Standards

**3rd grade: meets many of CA NGSS LS DCI’s**

1. Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)
2. Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size (3-LS2-1)
3. Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1) Other characteristics result from individuals’ interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2)
4. Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1) The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops. (3-LS3-2) When the environment changes in ways that affect a place’s physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. (3-LS4-4)
5. Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (3-LS4-2)
6. For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)
7. Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)

**PE’s: 3-LS3-2 & 3-LS4-2.** Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment and variations in characteristics among

individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving.

**3-LS4-3.** Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat

some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot

survive at all.

**4-LS1-1**. Construct an argument that plants/animals have internal/external

structures that support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

**Enduring Understandings:**

Species can change over time in response to changes in environmental

conditions through adaptation by natural selection acting over

generations.



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