



## Badgers and adaptation

### What does adaptation mean?

An adaptation is a way an animal's body helps it survive, or live, in its environment. Camels have learned to adapt (or change) so that they can survive.

### Adaptations can be:

#### Physical

- Obtain food
- Keep safe
- Build homes
- Survive extreme weather conditions
- Attract mates

#### Anatomical

- Animal shape

#### Behavioural

- Inherited or learnt adaptations e.g swarming, flight patterns, tool use.

### Examples of the basic adaptations that help creatures survive:

- shape of a bird's beak,
- the number of fingers,
- colour of the fur,
- the thickness or thinness of the fur,
- the shape of the nose or ears

### Can you think of more adaptations and examples of plants and animals that use them?

Adaptations are produced by evolution; they have developed over many generations.

Adaptations help the organism to survive in their habitat.

### What adaptations do we have to help us?

## How are badgers adapted to their habitat?

- **Dark colour** – acts as camouflage against the night sky
- **Body shape/structure** – loose skin makes it easier to move around in the sett and harder for predators to grab hold
- **Long wedge-shaped body** for underground living.
- **Strong front claws** that are used for digging and self defence
- **Good sense of smell**
- **Thick fur** – survive the cold winters as well as an extra fat layer to survive long winters without food.

## Can you think of any other adaptations badgers have?

**Do the other species of badger in the world require different adaptations in order to survive?**