

Needs of Plants and Animals in Different Environments



Book Builder

SCIENCE

Overview

Students compare how living things meet the same basic needs in different environments, practising comparison and classification.

Steps for Teachers

1. Review the basic needs shared by all living things
2. Assign or let students choose two contrasting environments
3. Students pick one plant and one animal from each environment
4. Students research how each one gets water, food, shelter and safety
5. Students plan pages in pairs: the same need, one environment then the other
6. Students write each page naming the need and the adaptation that meets it
7. Students add a final page answering: what did both environments have in common?

Example

A student compares the Sonoran Desert and a temperate pond. The 'getting water' pair puts a saguaro storing months of rain in its pleated trunk on one page and a cattail standing in it year-round on the next. The final page concludes: 'Both need the same things. Only the difficulty changes.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Scientific Accuracy	Adaptations described are real and correctly matched to their environment	Mostly accurate with a generalisation or two	Adaptations are invented or mismatched
Comparison Structure	Every pairing compares the same need, making differences visible	Most pairings line up; some compare unlike things	Pages are two separate reports rather than a comparison
Synthesis	The conclusion draws a genuine insight from the comparison	The conclusion restates the pages	No conclusion is drawn
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent