



## Florida Animal Adaptation Project

### Science Project Important Dates:

- April 18, 2018:** Project assigned.  
**April 20, 2018:** Students will choose animal (Teacher will approve).  
**April 27, 2018:** **First Look** for Research Form is due and submitted for a homework grade.  
**May 16, 2018:** Project AND Research form is due and collected for a Test grade.

Please refer to p. 19 in your Student Handbook for the following statement, "Any assignment that has a previously determined due date, that due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher. Any variation of this must be approved by administration."

**Objective** : Students will be able to identify specific adaptations of a Florida animal and explain how those adaptations help that animal to survive in its environment. Students will also be able to identify the difference between physical and behavioral adaptations.



### PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select a Florida animal from the list below. Get it approved by your teacher.
2. Research information about your animal. All students will complete a research form that will be turned in for a grade. First Look of research will be due **April 27** for a homework grade. All research will be finalized and the form turned in for a TEST grade on **May 16**. (no written paper is required)
3. Choose **one** project from the attached list.
4. Follow directions for the project you choose.
5. Project must be completed and turned in by **May 16, 2018**.

All attachments, along with these directions, will be available on our websites as pdf files. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have ANY questions.

Please encourage your students to summarize the information and not copy it. The consequence for plagiarism is a zero for the project and a referral.



**The final project and research form will be due May 16, 2018.**

Educationally yours,  
Fifth Grade Teachers

### Approved Florida Animals

Alligator  
American crocodile  
Armadillo  
Bald Eagle  
Big brown bat  
Black racer  
Black widow spider  
Bobcat  
Bottlenose dolphins  
Brown recluse spider  
Bull frog  
Cottonmouth snake

Cottontail rabbit  
Coyote  
Eastern coral snake  
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake  
Eastern Indigo snake  
Fiddler crab  
Florida bark scorpion  
Florida black bear  
Flying palmetto bug  
Flying squirrel  
Giant swallowtail butterfly

Gopher turtle  
Hummingbird  
Jelly-fish  
Key Deer  
Loggerhead sea turtle  
Manatee  
Mosquito  
Northern River otter  
Opossum  
Osprey  
Panther  
Pileated Woodpecker

Raccoon  
Red or grey fox  
Red-tailed hawk  
Roseate spoonbill  
Soft-shell turtle  
Spotted skunk  
Striped skunk  
Turkey vulture

## Project Options: (CHOOSE ONLY ONE)

### 1. 3D model of your animal:

- This can be made out of clay, Styrofoam, or anything you can find that would help you to create your animal.
- A purchased stuffed animal, or any other pre-made animal or kit, will not be accepted.
- Draw attention to the 3 adaptations by using 3 different mediums or materials from the base figure. For example: A polar bear made of clay. Then use macaroni for its claws, cotton for its fur, and toothpicks for teeth.
- The adaptations must be on the model (For example: fur, feathers, scales, ears, claws, etc.).
- Clearly **label** the adaptations on model.

### 2. 3D / Interactive poster board:

- The actual animal may be hand drawn, but the adaptations must be 3D.
- Draw attention to the 3 adaptations by using 3 different mediums or materials from the base figure. For example: A polar bear made of clay. Then use macaroni for its claws, cotton for its fur, and toothpicks for teeth.
- The adaptations must be on the board (For example: fur, feathers, scales, ears, claws, etc.).
- Clearly **label** the adaptations on model.

### 3. Diorama:

- You may create a 3-D scene where you will place your animal in its habitat.
- A shoebox makes a great diorama. Make sure the animal is large enough to effectively show off the adaptations.
- Draw attention to the 3 adaptations by either putting them on the animal or by showing the animal using its adaptations. Keep in mind that this becomes more difficult because the animal will be smaller within its habitat.
- The adaptations must be **labeled** and posted somewhere on the outside of the shoebox.
- The appropriate habitat needs to be included.

## **EXTRA CREDIT Opportunities:**

- Include extra adaptations- must be on research form as well as included in your project. (Points will depend on quality of work)
- Include a hand-drawn food chain/food web that includes your animal (1-10 extra credit points depending on quality of work).

Animal Adaptation Project  
Research Form:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use your own words. Plagiarism will result in serious consequences.

1. Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Classify animal (Invertebrate or vertebrate): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Classify type of animal (bird, insect, reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe its habitat or ecosystem in complete sentences:

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6. Adaptation #1: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is adaptation #1 physical or behavioral? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How does adaptation #1 help your animal to survive in its environment? Be specific. Use complete sentences.

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9. Adaptation #2: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is adaptation #2 physical or behavioral? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How does adaptation #2 help your animal to survive in its environment? Be specific. Use complete sentences.

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11. Adaptation #3: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Is adaptation #3 physical or behavioral? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How does adaptation #3 help your animal to survive in its environment? Be specific. Use complete sentences.

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## Rubric

Student Name:

Date:

1. Research Form ( 100 Project Points- Separate Grade) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Project choice (100 Project Points- Separate Grade):

\*\*You will be graded on one of the following projects.

- 3D Model

- Your Name and Animal Name are on project (5)

- Attention is drawn to the 3 adaptations and they are actually part of the model (45)

- Adaptations are labeled (30)

- Neatness and creativity (20)

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- 3D/Interactive poster board

- Your Name and Animal Name are on project (5)

- Attention is drawn to the 3 adaptations and they are actually on the board (45)

- Adaptations are labeled (30)

- Neatness and creativity (20)

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- Diorama

- Your Name and Animal Name are on project (5)

- Attention is drawn to the 3 adaptations and they are actually on the model (45)

- Adaptations are labeled (21)

- Diorama has appropriate surroundings (9)

- Neatness and creativity (20)

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