Title: Create A New Animal

Grade Level: 3rd-5th

Subject: Biology

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: Students will better understand physical adaptations of certain animals and how those adaptations increase the animal's chances of survival.

Method:

Begin a classroom discussion about how animals use physical characteristics and adaptations to their advantage. Define biotic and abiotic characteristics, learned and inherited features and how features help increase an animal's chance of survival.

Next, use the Wilderness Library to have students research four different animals. Have students complete the Create A New Animal Worksheet and use certain traits of animals to create a new animal. The new animal must use the best physical characteristics of the researched animals to its advantage in speed/mobility, camouflage, food collection and natural defenses. Also, have students brainstorm other animals that the new animal could create a symbiotic relationship with.

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

<u>**Key Ideas and Details**</u>

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

<u>**Craft and Structure**</u>

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone

<u>**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**</u>

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words

8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Create A New Animal!

Each animal has a unique set of features that allow it to survive. Physical features of animals often help the animal find food, reproduce, move, or keep from becoming other animals' food. Research four animals found in the Wilderness Library and describe their unique features.

1. The animals I chose to research are:

_____   _____

_____   _____

2. These animals live (be specific)

_____   _____

_____   _____

3. These animals belong to this class (mammal, reptile, bird, etc.)

_____   _____

_____   _____

3. These animals eat:

_____   _____

_____   _____

3. A characteristic of one animal that helps it find food is:

_____

_____

4. A feature that helps an animal move well is:

_____

_____

5. One of the animals uses camouflage by:

_____

_____

6. A natural defense that one of the animals uses well is:

_____

_____

Now that we know a little bit about four specific animals, create a new animal using a combination of features. You'll have to know your animal well to complete the following.

The name of my animal is: _____

My animal belongs to this class:_____

I know that this animal belongs to this class, because _____

_____

My animal lives in this habitat _____

One way my animal uses its habitat to its advantage is by

_____

_____

My animal eats _____

My animals collects its food from _____ by using this physical feature

_____

My animal moves by using _____

_____

My animal protect itself from predators by using

_____

_____

One way my animal uses camouflage is by

_____

_____

Draw a picture of your animal on the back of this page. Make sure to label each physical feature you use, and what other animal that feature is borrowed from.