

Science at home: Adaptation



1. Adaptation in animals.

Choose an animal you would like to research. Draw and label how the animal is adapted to its environment. If you do not have access to the Internet there are some ideas under 'Other useful information!' at the end of this document which describe a penguin's adaptations. You can use these ideas to help you draw and label a penguin. For an added challenge you could draw and label a polar bear → think about how a polar bear has similar sorts of adaptations e.g. black skin under it's white fur.

2. Adaptation in humans.

Imagine that have been asked to contribute an article to the magazine Science about how humans might evolve in the future.

What adaptations might occur?



Write at least 2-3 paragraphs and draw a labelled diagram explaining why you think these features will evolve. Think about your audience- will it be an informal or formal written piece? Remember to introduce your written piece with an introductory paragraph explain what evolution is.

Here are some ideas about how we might evolve to get you started:

- ability to hold breath under water for long periods of time due to rise in sea level.
- having to rely more on the sea for a food source.
- loss of hair due to rise in temperature and the need to cool the body down more quickly.

Think about the following:

- How earth might change over the next 1000 years.
- How adaptations are a result of survival of the fittest.
- What advantages the adaptations might provide.



If you have access to the Internet, you can search for 'The future of human evolution' from the SciShow on YouTube for more ideas.



Other useful information!

Penguin adaptations

- webbed feet for powerful swimming
- streamlined bodies to reduce drag in the water
- wings (shaped like flippers) help them 'fly' under water
- tightly packed , overlapping feathers to provide warmth and waterproofing
- thick skin with a layer of blubber (fat) to keep them warm
- black feathers absorb warmth from the sun

