

Habitats & Adaptations Tour

Tour: Know your adaptations challenge

Tour Instructions:

- Divide your group into smaller groups (3-4 students per group)
 - Give each group one of the small bags (this will be used to collect their “tokens”)
 - At each stop, if they can answer the adaptation question, they “earn” that animal’s token. You can provide them with a clue IF no group can come up with an answer right away.
 - Rules: They can not answer until you’ve said the whole question.
 - Goal: Collect as many adaptation tokens as possible!
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Stop 1 – Raccoon

Token: Dinner plate

Question: A raccoon is known as the trash panda. Why do you think this is?

Clue: think about both the words trash and panda

Answer: trash: because raccoons eat just about anything

Panda: because they have the black markings around their eyes

→ **earn dinner plate token.**

Stop 2 – Wolves

Token: Circle

Question: What is a hunting technique that wolves use to successfully take down large prey?

Clue: Do they hunt separately or in groups

Answer: Pack hunting → **earn circle token.**

Stop 3 – Dingoes

Token: Ladder

Question: Most wild dogs can run and dig, but dingoes have something extra in their wrists. This special joint lets them do something other dogs cannot.

Clue: It helps them escape danger and reach new places

Answer: Climbing → **earn ladder token.**

Stop 4 – Snowy Owl (2 token stop)

Token: Feather

Question: How do owls fly so quietly?

Clue: What do they need on their wings to fly quietly?

Answer: Soft feathers → **earn feather token.**

Token: Vertebra

Question: Owls' eyes are fixed and cannot move like ours. How can owls see in all directions if their eyes don't move?

Clue: Think about what an owl CAN move

Answer: flexible neck with double the amount of cervical vertebrae (they have 14 to our 7). This allows them to turn their necks 270 degrees. See how far students can turn their necks without moving their shoulders

→ **earn vertebra token.**

Stop 5 – Bald Eagle

Token: Talons

Question: I soar high above the land, hardly moving my wings at all. My sharp eyes can spot a fish far below. What powerful part of me lets me catch my prey so well?

Clue: what part of their body would they use like a fork?

Answer: Their talons → **earn talon token.**

Stop 6 – Canada Lynx

Token: Paw print

Question: What's special about lynx paws?

Clue: think about them walking in the snow

Answer: Their paws are spread wide acting like snowshoes
→ **earn paw print token.**

Stop 7 – Small Mammal House

Three stations:

a). Ring-tailed Lemur

Token: Tail

Question: What part of me acts like a signal to tell my family where I am?

Clue: It's long, black & white

Answer: tail → **earn tail token.**

b). Meerkat

Token: Binoculars

Question: When I stand tall, I'm not stretching. What am I doing?

Clue: Think of what a lighthouse keeper would have done

Answer: Warning of danger/acting as a lookout → **earn binocular token**

c). Naked Mole Rat

Token: Shovel

Question: I may not look very cute, but I'm safe underground. What would I use to dig with?

Clue: It's not what you may think of first!

Answer: Their teeth (the teeth are positioned so that they can use them even when their mouth is closed. This is perfect for digging by not allowing dirt in their mouth!) → **earn shovel token**

Stop 8 – Pygmy Goat

Token: Hoof

Question: I'm small but mighty. What do I need to walk on rough ground?

Clue: what are their feet called?

Answer: Rough/strong hooves → **earn hoof token.**

Stop 9 – Discovery Centre

Four stations:

a). Snakes: Royal Python or Western Hognose Snake

Token: scales

Question: My skin isn't soft — it's hard and shiny. It helps me slither safely without getting hurt. What covers my body?

Clue: Fish have them too, but theirs are wet.

Answer: scales → **earn scale token**

b). Blue-tongued Skink

Token: Blue tongue

Question: If danger comes, I use this to warn off predators

Clue: It makes me look poisonous!

Answer: Blue tongue → **earn blue tongue token**

c). Poison Dart Frogs

Token: colour wheel

Question: I may be small, but don't eat me! Why would bright colours be useful to me?

Clue: Think dangerous substance

Answer: It shows to other animals that they are poisonous

→ **earn colour wheel token**

d). Axolotl

Token: Gills

Question: I never really grow up to be an air breathing adult. Instead, I use these to help me breathe underwater

Clue: It is the same thing fish use

Answer: gills → **earn gill token**

Wrap-Up (2–3 minutes)

Students open their bags and count their “adaptation tokens.”

BONUS WHOLE GROUP: Which tokens showed structural adaptations and which showed behavioural adaptations? Have them ALL gather together and organize their tokens. See if they can organize them correctly. Did they find a physiological adaptation too?

Which animal's adaptation impressed you the most?

Wrap-Up Answers for Bonus Token:

Structural Adaptations: Dinner plate (can be both), feather, vertebra, talons, paw, tail (can be both), shovel, hoof, scales, blue tongue, gills

Behavioural Adaptations: Dinner plate (can be both), circle, ladder, tail (if meaning the action of moving the tail to warn group), binoculars, shovel (if meaning the action of digging with the teeth)

Physiological Adaptations: colour wheel (if they remember this adaptation from the presentation, they can put this one here)

**PLEASE PUT ALL PICTURE TOKENS
BACK IN THE CORRECT NUMERICAL
ORDER FOR THE NEXT TEACHER.
THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!**



**AFTER COMPLETING YOUR ACTIVITY YOU MAY FREELY EXPLORE THE ZOO,
OR IF YOU HAVE A BOOKED PROGRAM, PLEASE RETURN TO THE RED
BENCHES OUTSIDE THE ZOO ENTRANCE FOR YOUR PROGRAM TIME.**

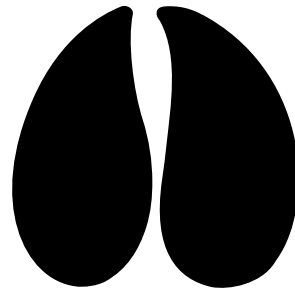
*****PLEASE RETURN ALL BORROWED ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT*****

Possible Starting Locations
A= Small Mammal House
C= Zoo Entrance
D= Affinity Learning Centre/Discovery
Centre





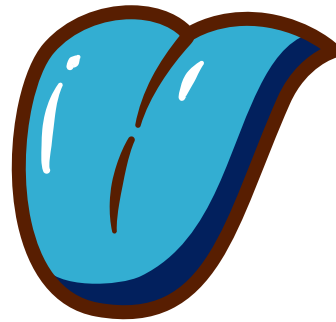
Colour Wheel-Stop 9c



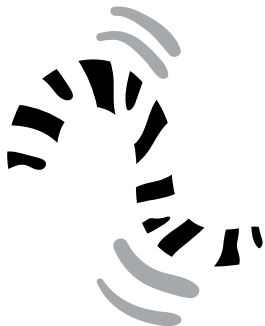
Hoof-Stop 8



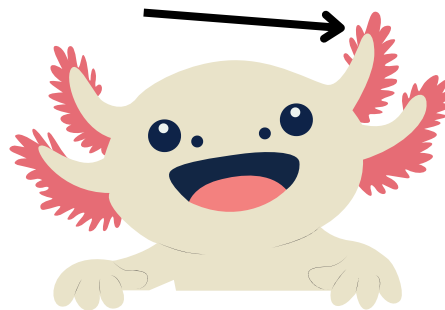
Feather-Stop 4



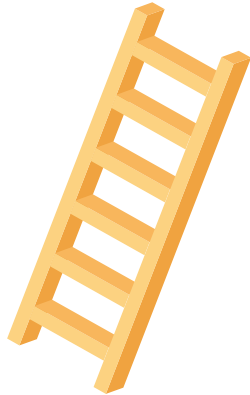
Blue Tongue-Stop 9b



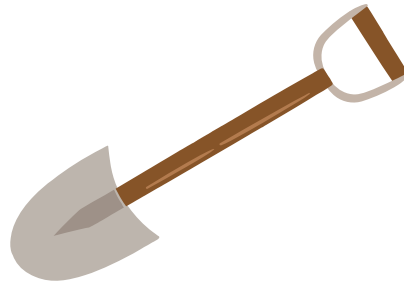
Lemur tail-Stop 7a



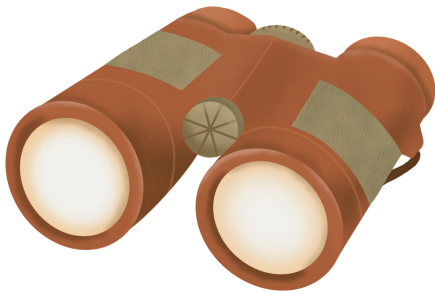
Gills-Stop 9d



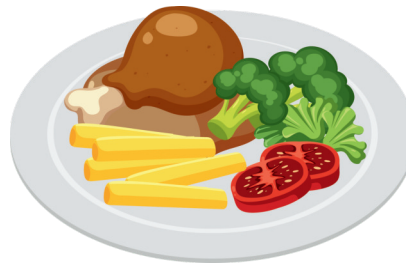
Ladder-Stop 3



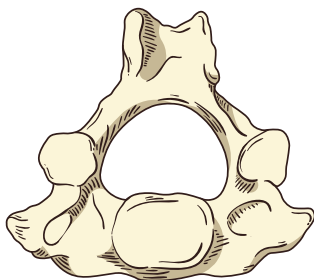
Shovel-Stop 7c



Binoculars-Stop 7b



Dinner Plate-Stop 1



Vertebra-Stop 4



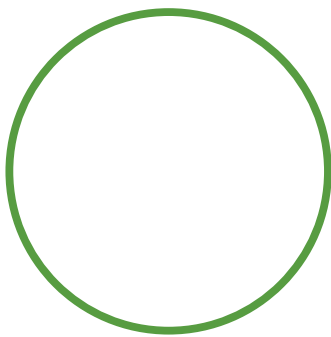
Talons-Stop 5



Scales-Stop 9a



Paw print-Stop 6



Circle-Stop 2

