



STUDENT JOURNAL

Name: _____

Date: _____

How does an adaptation give a survival advantage?

Part IA: Match Game

Complete the table using the lists in your Student Guide for reference.

Trait	Survival Advantage
1.	Insulates against cold
2.	Gives ability to breathe underwater
3.	Move where food is most available
4.	Camouflage protects against predators
5.	Lighter body weight for flying
6.	Attracts pollinators
7.	More individuals to watch for and defend against predators
8.	Ability to look for prey or obtain food from a stable vantage point
9.	Ability to better listen to surroundings, such as approaching predators, and to dissipate heat
10.	Spreads offspring
11.	Waterproofs body

Part IB: Identify an example

Choose one Trait and its Survival Advantage from the Match Game and identify one specific example of an organism that has that trait. Describe the details of how that species relies on that trait to help it survive.

Trait Description:

Species name (common/scientific):

Advantage Details:

How do environmental changes affect populations?

Part II: Survey Your Seasonal Shifts

SUMMER

Temp. Avg. Hi _____ Lo _____

Climate: _____

What you wear: _____

What you eat: _____

What plants or plant characteristics
do you notice?

What animals do you notice?

WINTER

Temp. Avg. Hi _____ Lo _____

Climate: _____

What you wear: _____

What you eat: _____

What plants or plant characteristics
do you notice?

What animals do you notice?

How are organisms adapted to an environment?

Part IIIA: Survey Your Backyard Species

					Species Name
					Where does it live? HABITAT/ SHELTER
					How does it travel? LOCOMOTION
					What does it eat? FOOD TYPES
					How does it eat? EATING
					Who might eat it? PREDATORS
					How does it defend? DEFENSES

Part IIIB: Compare and Contrast Common Traits

Trait #1 _____

Relates to (circle all that apply):

Habitat/Shelter Movement Food Types Eating Predators Defenses

Write the names of up to three animals that share this trait:

Trait #2 _____

Relates to (circle all that apply):

Habitat/Shelter Movement Food Types Eating Predators Defenses

Write the names of up to three animals that share this trait:

Trait #3 _____

Relates to (circle all that apply):

Habitat/Shelter Movement Food Types Eating Predators Defenses

Write the names of up to three animals that share this trait:

Reflections and Conclusions

1. Pick one trait that you identified as being common to one or more backyard animals. Why do you think they share this trait? Are there any differences in the details?

2. Choosing one of your backyards species, explain how its traits are well-suited to its environment.

3. Over a period of 50 years, if your local environment got 10°F colder and 30% wetter year-round, how do you think this would affect your backyard species population? Choose one species from your chart to explain your prediction.
