

# Survival

## Pre-Program Activity

### Grades 9-12



**Objective:** Students will recognize that an animal's adaptations make it well suited to survive in its own habitat but not in others.

#### Sunshine State Standards:

- **SC.912.L.17.6** Compare and contrast the relationships among organisms, including predation, parasitism, competition, commensalism, and mutualism.
- **SC.912.L.15.6** Discuss distinguishing characteristics of the domains and kingdoms of living organisms.
- **LA.910.4.2.6** The student will write a work-related document (e.g., application, resume, meeting minutes, memo, cover letter, letter of application, speaker introduction, letter of recommendation).
- **LA.1112.4.2.6** The student will write a work-related document (e.g., application, resume, meeting minutes, memo, cover letter, letter of application, speaker introduction, letter of recommendation).

**Overview:** Students write a résumé for an animal that is applying for a "job."

#### Materials:

- Examples of job listings from a newspaper or website
- Copies of [Animal Job Postings](#)
- Paper and pencils or computers and printers
- [List of animals](#)

#### Procedure:

- Read a few job listings from the classified section of a newspaper and ask the students what sort of qualifications they would expect someone to need in order to be considered for the positions. Point out that some skills make a person better suited to a particular job than others.
- Hand out copies of the Animal Job Postings and let students read over them.
- Assign each student an animal and allow them time to research what kinds of special skills it has.
- Go over what should be included in a résumé (training, skills, experience, etc.). Then have the students write a résumé for their animal based on its characteristics and submit it to one of the job postings.
- Divide students into groups and allow each group to look over the résumés submitted to one of the jobs (make sure students are not reviewing their own résumé). Have each group choose one of the animals to fill the position and explain why they chose it.
- Ask students if their animal seemed more suited to some jobs than others. Explain that an animal's adaptations allow it to survive in some circumstances but not in others. Then ask students if they think it is easier for people or animals to change their ways to fit a new kind of situation. Explain that most animals are so perfectly adapted to their natural way of life that they have a very difficult time surviving when changes are made to their ecosystem.