

Hi Creation Club,

Thank you for joining us for our virtual trip to the Sacramento Zoo. The people at the zoo were truly kind to show us around and to give us the attached activity worksheet. The worksheet is filled with good information and fun activities and I hope you enjoy doing them. But I want to talk to you about something that they included in the worksheet. The worksheet is talking about adaptation. The activity sheet states the following:

As a Creation Club member, I pledge to read God's Word, the Bible; believe what God has said; and observe and study His created world and universe. I promise to obey God's Word, to tell the truth, to respect His creation, to observe carefully, and to practice good science methods.



*Adaptations are special abilities animals have to thrive in their habitat. These can be something on their body (like claws) or how that animal acts (moving to a new place in the winter).*

This is true. God created animals (and people) to be able to adapt (or change) to survive in certain environments or changes in their environments. There was a famous study<sup>1</sup> done of a type of bird called a finch. These birds observed on an island were found to have a wider beak than a typical finch. The reason for this difference in beak style was that the bird's food source on that island was better obtained through a wide beak than a thin narrow beak. Therefore, the birds with the wide beaks thrived while those with thinner beaks did not do so well and eventually died off. But this is all a part of God's design for these birds. At the end of the day, the bird still is a bird, and still has a beak.

But the zoo's activity worksheet goes on to say,

*Humans live in so many different habitats. What allows people to spread out so well across the world? What physical adaptations do we have to let us survive the cold, hot, rocky, wooded or even desert habitats? Besides our brain, one of our best adaptations are our thumbs!*

At first, this seems to make sense because people do adapt to different living conditions, environments, and even to diseases. Like the animals, it is how God designed us with the ability to survive in different living conditions. But the writer of this worksheet confuses adaptation with another concept, evolution, by suggesting that, over time, we developed brains and grew thumbs. The Bible teaches that people were made on Day 6 of the creation week and that God's creation was perfect and good. We did not need to grow a better brain or thumbs. Adam and Eve had thumbs and fully functioning brains. Evolution says that if it is not working out as a fish, the creature can grow legs to walk out of the water and become a reptile. Be careful of this teaching. This is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that during creation week, God made all of the animals, birds, fish, plants, and the first two people.

I debated whether or not to provide the Creation Club members with this activity sheet. I thought about changing it. Then it occurred to me that this is a good teaching moment. We need to teach ourselves and our children to not accept everything we read and hear. We need to take captive every thought to obedience in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 10:5) and run it through the truth in God's Word in order to decide if it is correct.

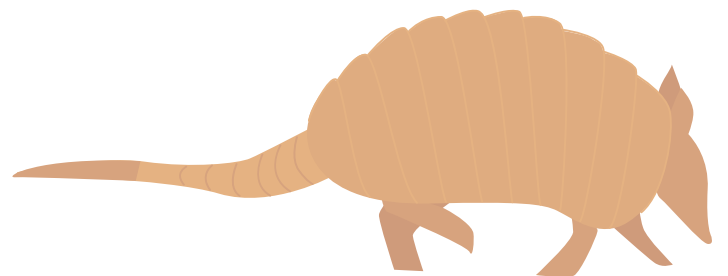
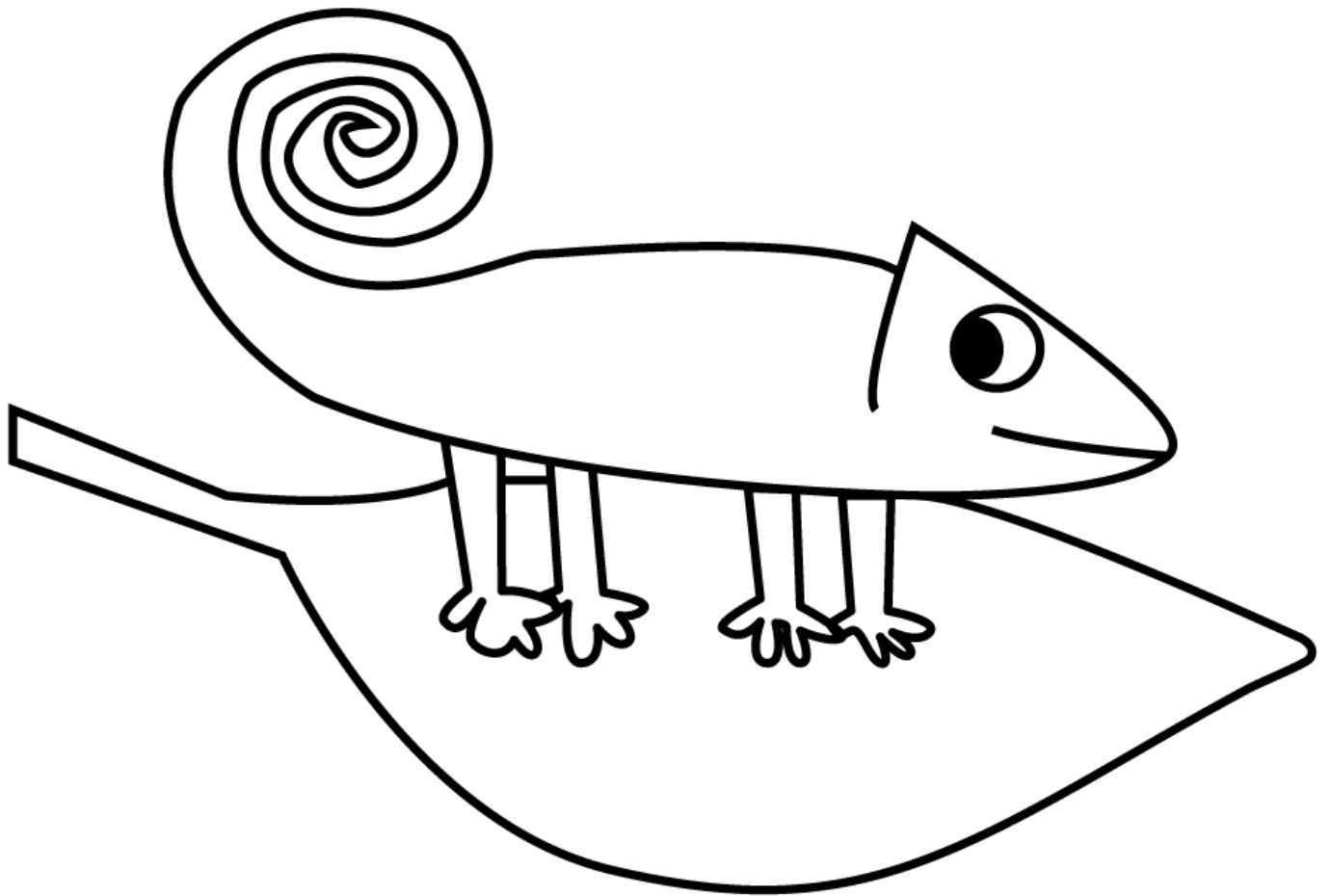
Yours truly in Christ,

Mr. T

<sup>1</sup>By the way, the famous finch study was done by Charles Darwin.

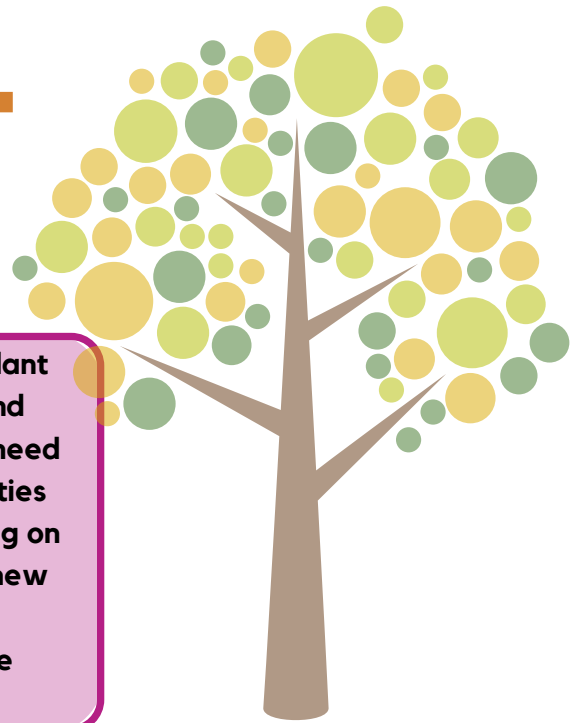


# HABITAT





# HABITAT



## OVERVIEW

A **habitat** is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism. Habitats are as varied as oceans to deserts and forests to swamps. In order to survive in their home, animals need all kinds of special adaptations. **Adaptations** are special abilities animals have to thrive in their habitat. These can be something on their body (like claws) or how that animal acts (moving to a new place in the winter).

Travel across the globe with us as we explore many unique habitats!

## PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### YOUNGER KIDS

#### Camouflage Chameleon

Color the chameleon (on the 3rd page) any color you want.

Should the chameleon have stripes, spots, be all one color? What colors might help the chameleon blend in around your home?

After you have finished coloring the chameleons, take the chameleon around to different places inside or out to see where it blends in best!

See Mr. T's note about this.

### OLDER KIDS

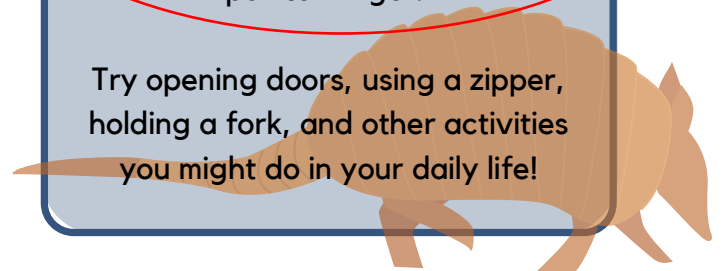
#### Human Adaptations

Humans live in so many different habitats. What allows people to spread out so well across the world? What physical adaptations do we have to let us survive the cold, hot, rocky, wooded or even desert habitats?

Besides our brain, one of our best adaptations are our thumbs!

See what your life would be like without your thumbs. Have an adult tape your thumbs to the side of your pointer finger.

Try opening doors, using a zipper, holding a fork, and other activities you might do in your daily life!





# HABITAT



## POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### YOUNGER KIDS

#### Backyard Ecosystem

Take a white or a light-colored sheet outside and lay it on the ground, under a tree. You can use towels or an old t-shirt, too. Shake the branches lightly to see what comes out.

Are there seeds? Are there leaves? Is there pollen? Are there bugs? Why do you think there are more bugs in one place versus another? If you did this during the autumn, what would fall onto the sheet? (This is a great chance to talk about seasons.)

Once you have a little pile of objects on the sheet, try to build a habitat out of them.

Does it have everything that an animal would need to survive?

What type of animal would live here?

Tell a partner!

**KEEP GOING TO  
THE NEXT PAGE  
FOR THE  
CHAMELEON  
COLORING  
PAGE!**

### OLDER KIDS

#### Pinecone Bird Feeder

Provide food to your local wildlife in your own backyard habitat!

#### Materials

Pinecone (not scented or decorated)  
String  
Peanut butter or honey  
Bird seed

#### Directions

1. Go outside and find a pinecone. Be careful some have tiny thorns! If you can't find a pinecone just use an old toilet paper tube. Either of these will biodegrade over time.
2. Tie the string around the top rows of the pinecone.
3. Use a butter knife or a spoon to cover the pinecone in peanut butter or honey. Make sure to get into all the crevices of the pinecone!
4. Roll the covered pinecone in bird seed, sunflower seeds, peanuts, or safflower seeds. Make sure everything is raw, not roasted or flavored.
5. With the help of an adult, use the string to lift up the pinecone, hang it from a tall place in your backyard.

What kinds of birds do you see visiting your feeder?  
What kinds of colors are they? Would they camouflage into your backyard habitat?



TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR ADVENTURE WITH THE SAC ZOO AND HAVE AN ADULT TAG US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM!

