

(CHAPTER - WORLD OF ANIMALS (PART-II))Adaptations

Animals living in different habitats show some modifications in their structure. These modifications in the structure and function of an organism to adjust to its habitat are called adaptations. Adaptation to a particular environment help animal to survive.

Some of the adaptations are -

Body Coverings

Body coverings of animals help them to survive in a particular habitat and protect them from extreme weather conditions. Different animals have different types of body coverings.

① Shells

Many animals such as snail, turtle and tortoise have a hard outer covering on their body called a shell. It protects their soft body parts from injury and attacks by enemies.

② Scales

Fish and reptiles have scales to protect themselves. Fish have thin scales while most reptiles have hard leathery scales to prevent water loss.

Snakes use their scales to move on the land. They also shed their skins periodically but these are replaced by new ones.

This shedding of old skin to get a new one by the snakes is called moulting.

③ Feathers

Birds have feathers that protect them, keep them warm and help them to fly. Feathers also protect birds from rain. Flight feathers, down feathers and body feathers are the three types of feathers found in birds.

④ Fur

Animals like polar bears have a thick covering of hair called fur. Sheep, goat and bear also have fur on their body. Fur protects them from rain and cold. Hairs keep them warm.

* NOTE

We obtain wool for woollen clothes from the fur of sheep. During summers, fur from sheep's body is taken out by shaving and is used for making wool.

⑤ Hair

Mammals have hairs on their bodies to protect them and keep them warm.

Camouflage

Animals like tiger, grasshopper, deer etc., have the ability to merge with their surroundings. This is called camouflage.

It makes the animal difficult to be spotted and protects it from its enemies and poaching. Chameleon can even change its colour to match with the surroundings.

Eating Habits

Different animals eat different kinds of food to stay alive. Their body parts are adapted to the kind of food they eat.

Depending on their food habits, animals are divided into three groups.

(A) Herbivores

Animals such as cow, sheep, goat and horse eat only plants and plant products. They are called herbivores or herbivorous animals. They have sharp front teeth to cut or bite the grass or leaves of plants, and large flat back teeth to grind the food.

(B) Carnivores

Animals like lion, tiger, wolf and owl eat the flesh of other animals and are

called carnivores or carnivorous animals. They are also known as meat eaters. They have sharp, pointed front teeth to chew the flesh and bones. Birds of prey like owls and eagles have sharp claws to catch small animals. They have hooked beaks and claws to hold their prey and to tear the flesh.

(c) Omnivores

Animals like human being, bear and duck eat both plants and animals. These animals are known as omnivores or omnivorous animals.

HOME ASSIGNMENT

(A) Tick (✓) the correct answer!

- ① The body of the snake is covered with
(a) scales (✓) (b) feathers () (c) fur ()
- ② It is an example of herbivore
(a) Lion () (b) Wolf () (c) Deer (✓)
- ③ Animals that eat flesh of other animals are called -
(a) Herbivore () (b) Omnivore () (c) Carnivore (✓)
- ④ Which of the following does not belong to

(a) same group?
Snake () (b) Deer () (c) Wolf ()

(B) Short answer question -

- ① Define moulting.
- ② Define adaptation.
- ③ Name any two insects with wings.
- ④ How do the teeth of herbivores help them in eating?
- ⑤ Why do animals living in polar region have fur on their body?

(C) Long answer question -

- ① How is a fish adapted to live in water?
- ② What helps the birds to fly in air?
- ③ What are the various body coverings found in different animals?
- ④ Describe the special features of meat eaters.
- ⑤ Differentiate: Omnivore, Herbivore and Carnivore.