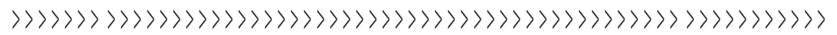


Australian Animal Adaptations

~ STEAM Education from Queensland



Let's join the session!



The following questions are based on the contents of the session. Watch the session and answer each question.

[1] What are the kangaroo's special features? Explain these features.

- A kangaroo has a long, strong tail which helps it to balance. It can stand on its tail to fight.
- A kangaroo has sharp teeth which enable it to eat easily.
- A kangaroo has strong tendons which enable it to jump and hop around.

[2] The students did an experiment with bird beaks. What are the features of each type of beak?

- In the experiment, bird beaks were divided into three types: skewers, spoons and pegs. The students picked up clear straws, rubber bands and gummy bears with the three types of beak. Skewers had a pointy end and were able to pick up different types of food. Spoons scooped up things. Pegs caught things. The results of the experiment showed skewers could pick up the most kinds of food.

[3] Why was it possible for all the birds to live in the same area?

- If there were few types of food, only some kind of birds, for example birds with skewer beaks, could survive. However, a variety of food in nature enables birds to coexist.
- I think that the birds could live together because they could each find the type of food that suited their beak.

[4] Echidnas and platypuses have special features. Explain these features.

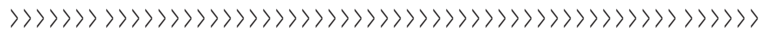
- Echidnas and platypuses are mammals. Mammals usually give birth to babies, but echidnas and platypuses lay eggs.
- Echidnas and platypuses are monotremes, which are mammals that lay eggs. The only place in the world they live is Australia.

[5] Design a new animal. What are its special features? Why did you choose those features? Where would it live? Can you think of a name for your animal?

N/A (There are no fixed answers to this question, because everyone's opinion matters.)



Wrap up the session!



[1] The following is a summary of the session. Write down the appropriate words in the blanks in the passage. You may use the same words for several blanks.

Various animals have (adapted) (to) survive on earth. Each animal has its own features that are an adaptation to the (surrounding) (environment). Kangaroos living in Australia have strong (tendons), so they can (jump) and (hop) around in the grasslands. Birds have different (beak) (shapes). The students (experimented) (with) how much food could be picked up by each type of beak. In the experiment, the skewer beak (picked) (up) the most food. After the experiment, they discussed why birds with different types of beaks (coexist), and concluded that it was because a variety of food was (available) (to) them. The students also (did) a (grouping) of animals in Australia. Some animals in Australia are not found elsewhere. Echidnas and platypuses are rare (mammals) that (lay) (eggs) and live only in Australia.