**Adaptations:**

*Why do certain organisms survive & thrive in one environment?*

**Learning Intentions:**

* I CAN compare & contrast between structural & behavioural adaptations
* I CAN define the terms: symbiosis, migration, hibernation, camouflage



http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/adaptation/?ar\_a=4

An **adaptation** is a mutation, or genetic change, that helps an organism, such as a plant or animal, survive in its environment. Due to the helpful nature of the mutation, it is passed down from one generation to the next. As more and more organisms inherit the mutation, the mutation becomes a typical part of the species. The mutation has become an adaptation.

**Structural and Behavioral Adaptations**

An adaptation can be **structural**, meaning it is a physical part of the organism. An adaptation can also be behavioral, affecting the way an organism acts.

An example of a structural adaptation is the way some plants have adapted to life in the desert. Deserts are dry, hot places. Plants called succulents have adapted to this climate by storing water in their thick stems and leaves.

Animal migration is an example of a **behavioral** adaptation. Grey whales migrate thousands of miles every year as they swim from the cold Arctic Ocean to the warm waters off the coast of Mexico. Grey whale calves are born in the warm water, and then travel in groups called pods to the nutrient-rich waters of the Arctic.