



Adaptations

3rd-4th Virtual Education Class

Standards Alignment:

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

3-LS4-3. Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

Overview:

Pre-class activity (10-15 min): take a virtual tour through the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station! We will send a link to an online video that your students can watch to learn about the Aquarium and prepare them for the virtual class!

Virtual Class (30 min): Students will think critically about how certain traits or behaviors can help animals survive in their environment, as they watch some of our most unique Aquarium animals demonstrate their adaptations. Learn from our biologists, meet some of our animals up close, and ask questions during our live video chat!

Follow-Up Activity: Through a web-based interactive game, students will put their knowledge to the test and demonstrate their understanding of how animals use adaptations to survive in different environments. A link to this activity will be sent to teachers via web-based Google suite.

Suggested Supplemental Projects:

- Students can write a response to the prompt: "If you could borrow one adaptation from an animal, what adaptation would you like to have and why?"
- Using materials (like clay, play dough, legos, pipe-cleaners, etc.) from home or in the classroom, design a creature that could survive in your school (or another location, like the moon, the bottom of the ocean, or on a different planet).