

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Environmental Education Program

Adaptation Feeding Experiment

Third Grade

Through this experiment students will learn that different adaptations for feeding allow many animals to live in the same area.

Procedure

Discuss the importance of adaptations and have the students list different types of feeding adaptations (type of mouth, food preference, when something is active looking for food).

Identify the “adaptations” – chop stick, fork, spoon, knife, clothes pin and tell them they are looking for food and must use their “adaptation” and not their hands to collect as many food items as possible. Remind the student not all the adaptations will be good for collecting all the food types so they may go after food items best suited for their adaptation.

Disperse the food items on the pavement or classroom floor if you have a small quantity of children. Otherwise put a variety of food items in individual plastic cups and distribute to each child who will spill them onto their own desk. Let the students collect until all the food items have been gathered then have them count how many food items each individual was able to collect. Now have the students complete the worksheet or discuss as a class depending on time constraints.

Materials/ Supplies

Worksheet

paper cups for storing food items

Adaptations: spoons, chop sticks, forks, tweezers, clothespins,

Food categories: toothpicks, marbles, plastic beads of different sizes and shapes, toothpicks

Conclusion: Reinforce that adaptations help animals to survive and some animals are better adapted for desert life than others.

Feeding Station Worksheet

Name _____

School _____

1. What was your adaptation? Circle one.

Clothespins

Large Chopsticks

Small Chopsticks

Fork

Spoon

Other

1. Sort the food items into the groups listed below and give your total for each.

Rope _____ Toothpicks _____ Beads _____

Glass _____ Eyes _____

- Was your adaptation better at collecting a particular food item?
- Did you change the way you used your adaptation during the activity? If so Why?
- Did you go after a certain type of food?