



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership



“I Scienced” At-Home Activities

Recommended Grades: PreK-2



This week, Brookfield Zoo’s Animal Care staff is presenting you with a variety of animals that live in different places. These animals have special body parts and features (called “adaptations”) that enable them to survive and thrive in their environments—deserts, shrublands, oceans, prairies, and forests. Here’s a fun way to mimic one of these adaptations at home:



Make your own wallaby tail!

Wallabies have a very long tail that helps them balance when they jump. Their tail can be up to one-third as long as their body! How long would your tail be if you were a wallaby?

1. With the help of an adult, get a piece of string or yarn.
2. Stand up straight and ask a sibling or grownup to help you stretch the string or yarn from the bottom of your feet to the top of your head. The piece of string or yarn should be as long as you are tall.
3. Fold the string into thirds. If you were a wallaby, your tail would be as long as this folded piece of string (or one-third the entire length of the yarn).

Can you make a sock tail this long?

4. Stuff some socks with newspaper, or with rolled-up socks.
5. With ponytail bands, string, or shoelaces, tie or attach several stuffed socks together to make a long tail, see step 3, (or a grownup can pin the stuffed socks together with safety pins).
6. Then tie or pin your tail to a belt so you can wear it.



Discuss the following questions with your family:

- What other animals have tails?
- Are their tails long or short?
- Why do you think some animals have short tails and some have long tails?
- What do you think other animals use their tails for?
- What other adaptations do animals have?



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Look for other adaptations animals have.

- Print this page or re-create the chart on your own paper.
- Then find an animal to study. You can observe a local animal by watching it through your window. Or you can go outdoors with an adult to observe an animal from a safe distance.
- For each animal you see, fill in a blank row in the chart. Draw pictures or write words about what you see.
- Then find another animal and do the same thing. See our example below.

Type of animal I observed	How does the animal move around?	How do you think the animal finds food?
Robin	It has legs and wings	It uses its eyes to spot insects and its beak to grab them



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This week, Brookfield Zoo’s Animal Care staff is presenting you with a variety of animals that live in different places. These animals have special body parts and features (adaptations) that enable them to survive and thrive in their environments—deserts, shrublands, oceans, prairies, and forests. As you watch each episode this week, fill in a row of the chart for the animal.



Animal You Watched	Feature to move around	Feature to find food	Feature to stay warm or cool	Feature to protect itself
Mon				
Tues				
Wed				
Thurs				
Fri				



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What adaptations would you like to have to help you move around, find food, stay warm or cool, or protect yourself? Choose a habitat you’d like to live in and use recycled materials and supplies in your home to design a model of an adaptation. *Design a new adaptation each day for a different habitat.*



Ask your parent or adult caregiver to send us a photo of your work at [#BringingTheZooToYou](#) [#BrookfieldZoo](#)

Family Game Night!

ANIMAL CELEBRITIES

Have all of your family members write names of animals on slips of paper – for a total of 10 or more animals. Place the slips of paper in a basket or large bin. Divide your family up into two teams.

- **Round One:** One player from each team chooses a slip of paper with an animal. Using as many verbal clues as needed, the player tries to help his or her team guess the animal on the slip. Players should use clues that emphasize animal features such as large ears, sharp claws, or wings and legs.
- **Round 2:** Using all the same slips of paper, repeat round one. But this time, the player can only use one word to help his or her team guess the animal.
- **Round 3:** Using all the same slips of paper, repeat the guessing game. But this round, the player can only use silent acting or pantomime to help his or her team guess the animal.

