

Animal adaptations

Have fun with features



This trail explores the way animals have different features, or adaptations, to suit the habitat they live in. We'll look at animals from Arctic, savannah and rainforest habitats.

In the Arctic

The Arctic is the cold, icy area around the North Pole.

Gallery 1

Find the wolf in **case 17**.

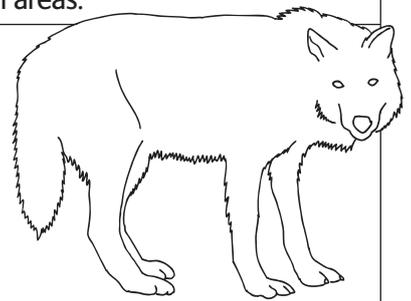
Wolves hunt for prey around the Arctic and in cold mountain areas.

Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

A wolf has thick on its body to keep it warm.

A wolf has sharp to kill and eat prey.

A wolf can prey from a distance with its nose.

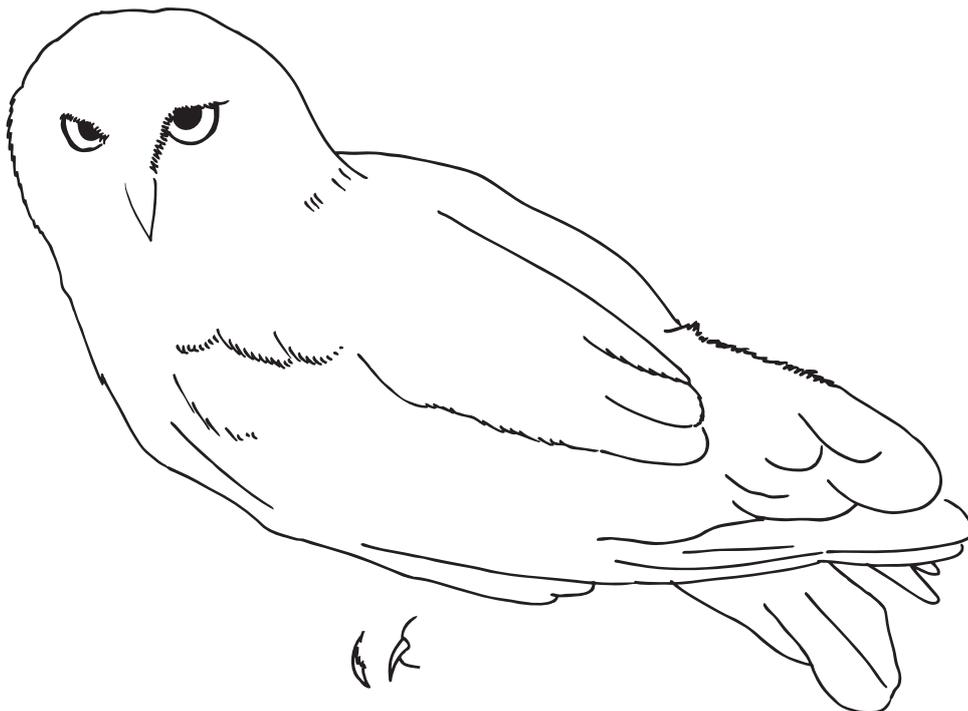


Gallery 1

Now find the snowy owl in **case 5**. Snowy owls eat small mammals such as lemmings.

The male is white. The female is brown and white to give her better camouflage when she is on her nest.

Keep this snowy owl warm by drawing feathers around its beak and on its feet.



Which features do all the owl have for catching and killing prey?

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Gallery 3

Find the cod in **case 8**. Cod swim in groups, called shoals, in the deep sea near the Arctic. They eat smaller fish and other animals.

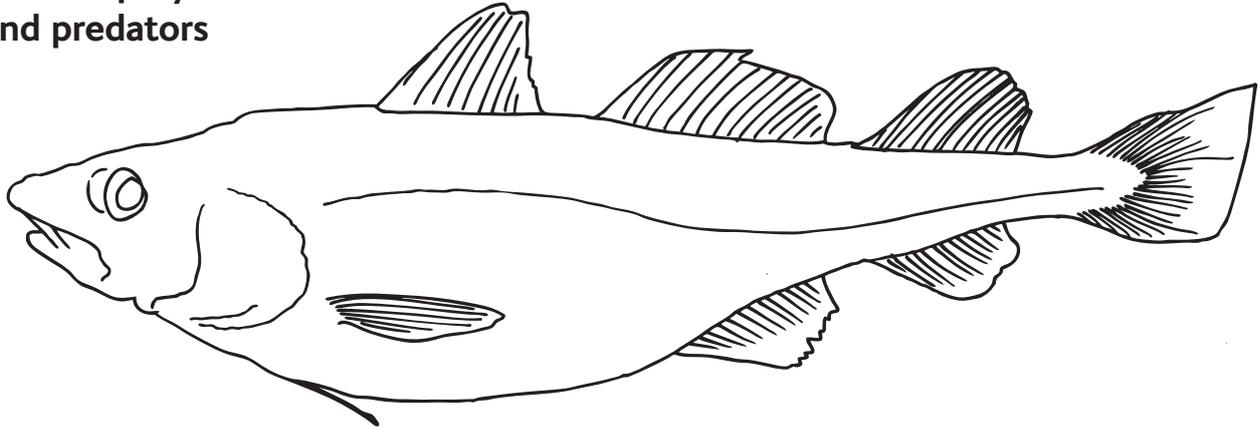
Draw lines from these phrases to label the different parts of the cod.

Large eyes to look for prey and predators

Streamlined shape to move easily through water

Sharp teeth to kill and eat prey

Gills to breathe under water



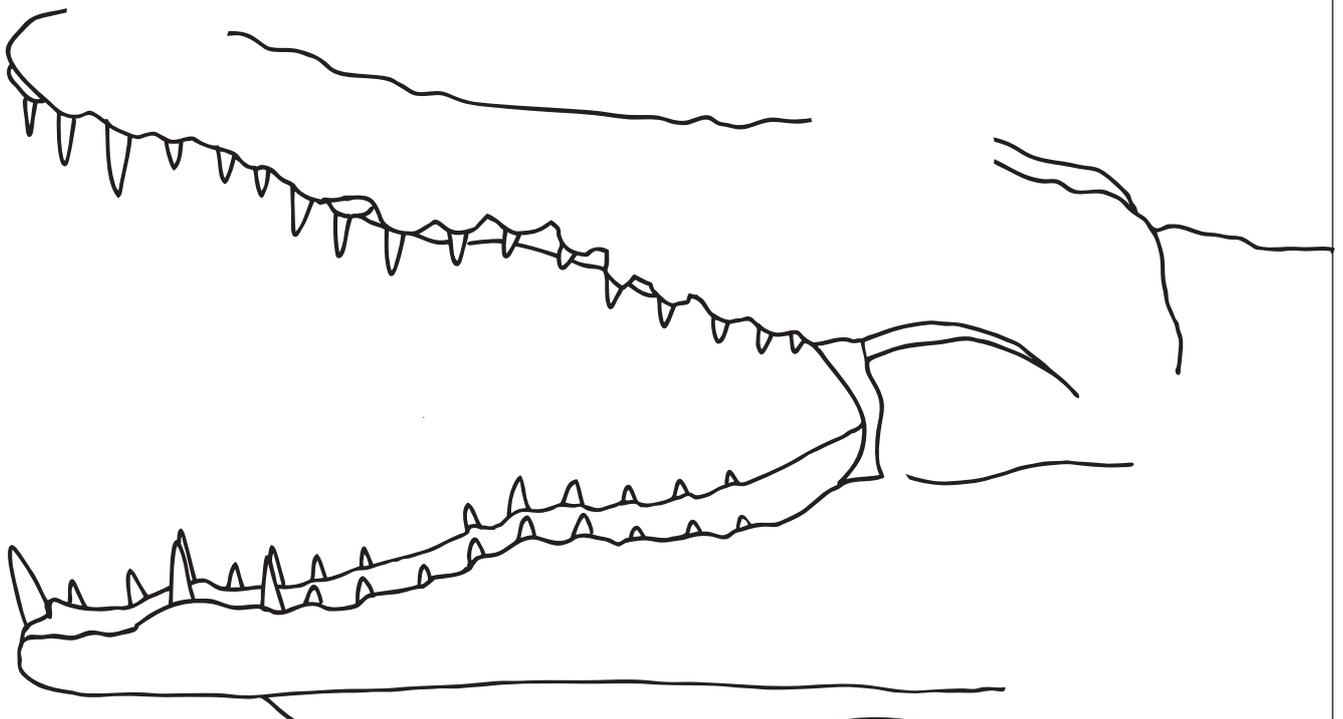
In the savannah

Savannah is flat, dry grassland with very few trees.

Gallery 3

Look at the eyes and noses of the crocodiles on display.

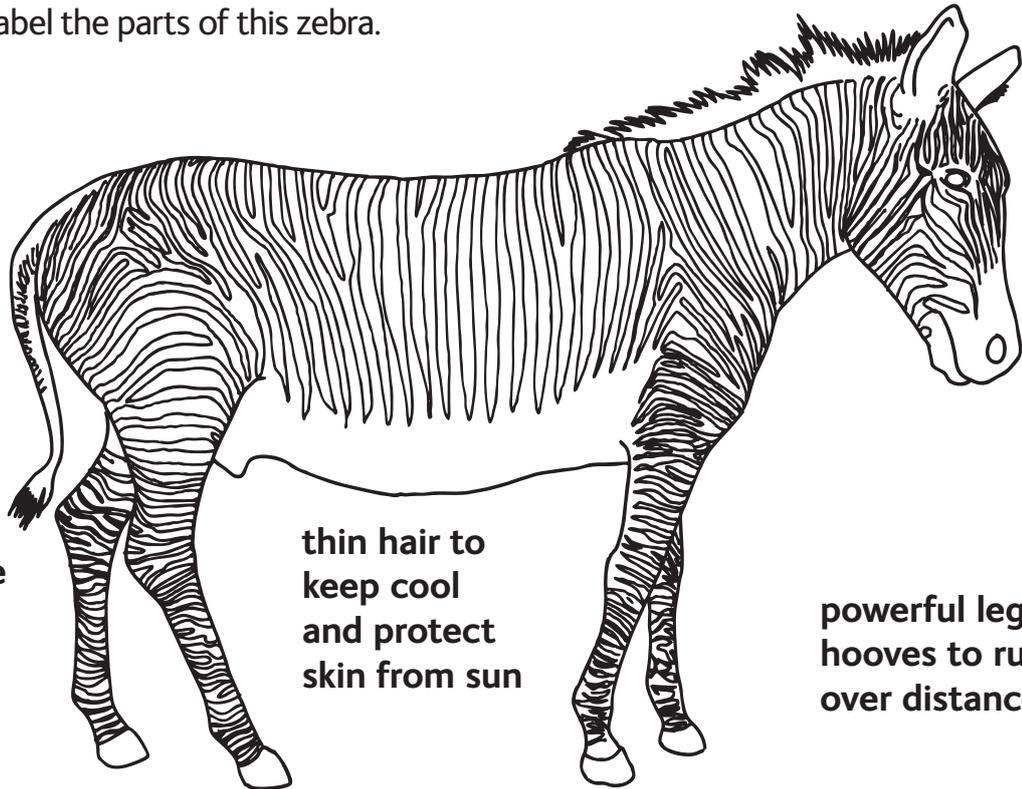
Now draw eyes and nostrils on this crocodile. Why are they on the top of its head?



Gallery 4

Find the zebras. Zebras live in herds and eat grass.

Draw lines to label the parts of this zebra.



eyes on side
of head to
look out for
predators

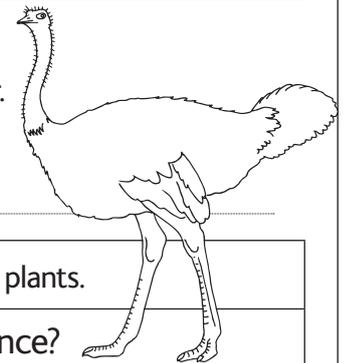
thin hair to
keep cool
and protect
skin from sun

powerful legs and
hooves to run
over distance

Explore some more

► On your way through Gallery 5 find two animals with thin hair and two with thick fur.

What type of habitat do you think they each live in?



Gallery 6

Find the ostriches. Ostriches live in herds. They eat grass and other plants.

Which features (adaptations) help the ostrich spot predators from a distance?

large eyes

long legs

fluffy wings

tall neck

Which features help the ostrich escape from predators?

large eyes

long legs

fluffy wings

strong muscles

In the rainforest

A rainforest is a large forest that stays warm and wet all year with many different kinds of animals and plants. It is sometimes called a jungle.

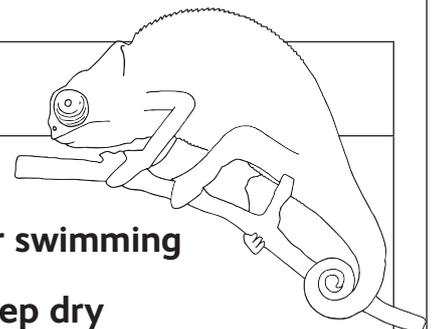
Gallery 6

Find the chameleons in **case 60**.

A chameleon catches insects with its long, sticky tongue.

Tick the statements you agree with most. Chameleons have:

- curled feet for gripping tree branches
- a tail fin for swimming
- thick fur to keep warm
- scaly waterproof skin to keep dry
- a long tail to balance and grip
- flat feet for walking on the ground



Gallery 3

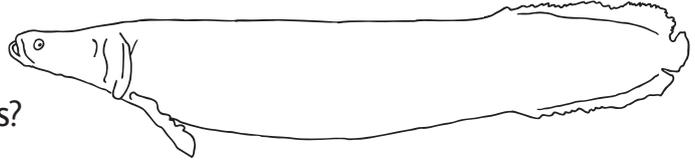
Find the arapaima in **case 5**.

This fish lives in large rivers and lakes in the Amazon rainforest.

Look in the arapaima's mouth. Do you think it eats:

other animals plants

How did you decide what the arapaima eats?



Gallery 1

Find the harpy eagle in **case 11**. A harpy eagle flies through the forest catching monkeys to eat.

Tick the features you think would help the eagle best:

to grasp and kill prey

strong legs and feet with huge talons

slim legs and feet with small talons

to fly through gaps between the trees in the forest

short wings

long wings

to judge distance accurately

eyes facing forward

eyes facing to the side

Explore some more

► Find three mammals in **Gallery 1** that you think live in a rainforest.

How are they adapted to that habitat?

► Find another animal from a rainforest, savannah or Arctic habitat. It could live in the air, on land or in water.

Draw it here in its habitat and label the adaptations or features that help the animal live where it does.