

# Survival of the Fittest

Grade 2-4

Teacher's Guide



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

## Description

In this exciting field trip, students will investigate how animals in the wild survive. Students will observe the Center's wildlife and natural artifacts, and will participate in our "Adaptation Investigation" inquiry activity to see, first-hand, some of the amazing adaptations that help animals "make a living."

**Length:** 60 minutes. **Adult chaperones recommended:** 5

## Content Standards

Subject	Gr	Standard	Objectives/"I Can" Statements:
Life Sci.	2	Living things cause changes on Earth.	I can explain how living things cause change on Earth.
Life Sci.	3	Individuals of the same kind differ in their traits and sometimes the differences give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing	I can explain how living things cause change on Earth. I can identify plant and animal adaptations that aid in survival.
Life Sci.	3	Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.	I can predict which organisms are most likely to survive.
Life Sci.	4	Changes in an organism's environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful	I can predict how changes to the environment will impact organisms living there.

## Pre-Trip Activities

### Vocabulary

adaptation	organism
camouflage	mimicry
ecosystem	resource
environment	survival
offspring	

### Books

- Animal Behavior by Joseph Midtown. World Book, 2014.
- Plant and Animal Adaptations by Joseph Midthun & Samuel Hiti. World Book. 2014.
- Survival and Change by Steve Parker. Heinemann Library, 2006.
- When Lunch Fights Back by Rebecca L. Johnson. Millbrook Press, 2015.

## Other Activities

- Use webcams to view animals in their natural habitat or simulated environments to observe and record physical characteristics of the animals as well as behavioral traits that are taught from parent to offspring. Falcon cams and bat cams are used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and can be used for this study.

## Post-Trip and Extension Activities

- Explore organisms that once lived in Ohio and no longer exist. National Geographic provides an article on the find of a giant cockroach fossil in Ohio. Science Daily provides a rich source of information on the relationship between mammoths and elephants.
- Investigate various species that have been endangered due to environmental changes and examine efforts to reestablish and support their populations. One example is the trumpeter swan. The Ohio History Central provides details of this bird's story.