

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Adaptations

Lesson Plan for *Why Do Camels Have Humps?*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students identify the reasons the author gives to support points in the text and understand the concept of adaptation.

Things Needed

- *Why Do Camels Have Humps?* book
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read *Why Do Camels Have Humps?* out loud to students.

Activity

Turn to page 4 in *Why Do Camels Have Humps?* Use the following prompts:

- The book says, “Many animals have adaptations. These are traits that help them live in certain environments.” What do you think the word *environment* means? Have students use the glossary on page 23 to check their answer (Definition: the natural world, including the land, sea, and air).
- What is the desert environment like? (Answer: It is very hot and dry. There is little shade from the sun. Food can be hard to find.)

Then, turn to page 7. The book says, “Camels’ humps help them live in the desert.” Ask students to use Chapter 3 (“Food”) and Chapter 4 (“Insulation”) to think about why the author makes that statement. After giving students a minute or two to think, have students pair up and talk to each other about their answers. Then, have the students come back together as a class to discuss their answers. Write their answers on the whiteboard. Possible answers could include:



- The camel gets energy from the fat stored in its hump (p. 12).
- The camel's hump keeps fat off the rest of its body. This keeps its body cool during the hot day (p. 19).
- During cool desert nights, the camel's hump spreads heat through the rest of its body to keep it warm (p. 20).

Finally, invite students to brainstorm other animals that have adapted to their environments. Write their answers on the whiteboard. Possible answers could include:

- Polar bears have thick fur for staying warm in the cold.
- Fish have fins for swimming in the ocean or a lake.
- Monkeys have long arms and tails for climbing and swinging in trees.

Evaluation

Could students use the glossary to aid comprehension of a term? Could they use the text to answer the questions about adaptation?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.8).

