

Adapting to Denali

Denali National Park

Grades Four through Six



OBJECTIVES

Students will understand and describe different types of animal adaptations, including physical and behavioral adaptations. Students will identify adaptations of animals in a specific environment.



SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Science
- Language Arts



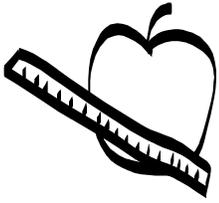
SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the Denali National Park quarter design. Locate this site on a class map. As background information, explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs on the back of the coin. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia.
2. Research the Denali National Park, specifically the environmental characteristics that may make living there difficult. Introduce the term “adaptation” and how it might apply to Denali National Park. Beginning with the Dall sheep as an example, discuss different types of adaptations.
3. Examine other animals that live in Denali National Park and their physical and behavioral adaptations. Record findings about specific animals and their adaptations on the “Adapting to Denali” worksheet.
4. Create a large class mural of the environment with animals and their specific adaptations labeled and described.



ASSESSMENT

- Use the students’ class participation, worksheets and final products to evaluate whether they have met the lesson objectives.
- Create a rubric for the final adaptation and environment diagram.



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RESOURCES

- “Denali National Park Quarter” page
- “Adapting to Denali” worksheet
- America the Beautiful Quarters® Program: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/
- United States Park Service: www.nps.gov/
- Denali National Park: www.nps.gov/DENA/



Name _____

Adapting to Denali

Directions: Research animals found in the Denali National Park. Describe the physical and behavioral adaptations that help them to survive in this particular environment. Use writing and illustrations to show the adaptations.



ANIMAL	PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS	BEHAVIORAL ADAPTATIONS



Denali National Park Quarter



The United States of America

