



Animal Adaptations

Created by: Cheryl Phillips

Grades 3-4

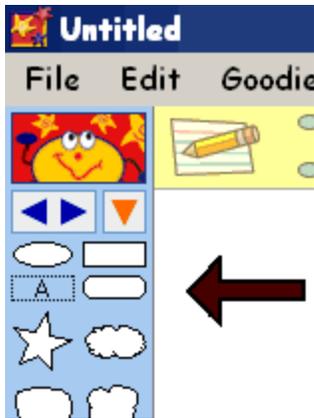
Introduction: Why do giraffe's have a long neck? Why to porcupines have quills? These are common questions students ask. In this activity, students will learn about structural and behavioral adaptations. They will realize that everything animals and plants have from fur to feet have a purpose.

Process: In the classroom discuss with the students structural and behavioral adaptations. As a class, access [Earth Floor's](#) awesome site that explains adaptations. This site [What is an Adaptation](#) is in a printable form and does a simple job explaining physical adaptations.

Task: After discussing adaptations with the class, they will open Kidspiration and go to the 'Picture' theme. Once there, they will access the picture library and select a wild animal. Using the symbol maker (on the upper right corner of the task bar) and using the stamp, make some arrows.

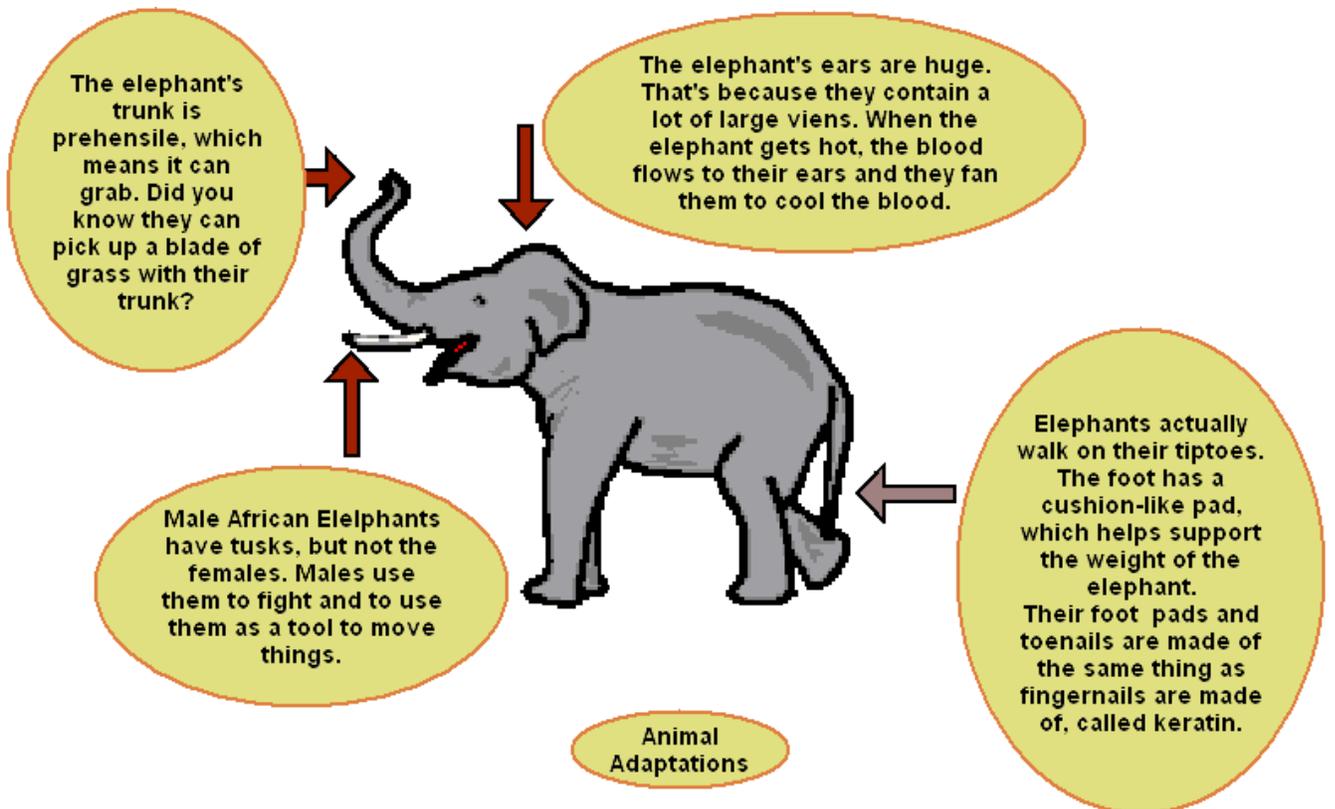


To get a text box, click on the box with the 'A' in it. Drag the box over to a part of the animal you are going to talk about, (see example).



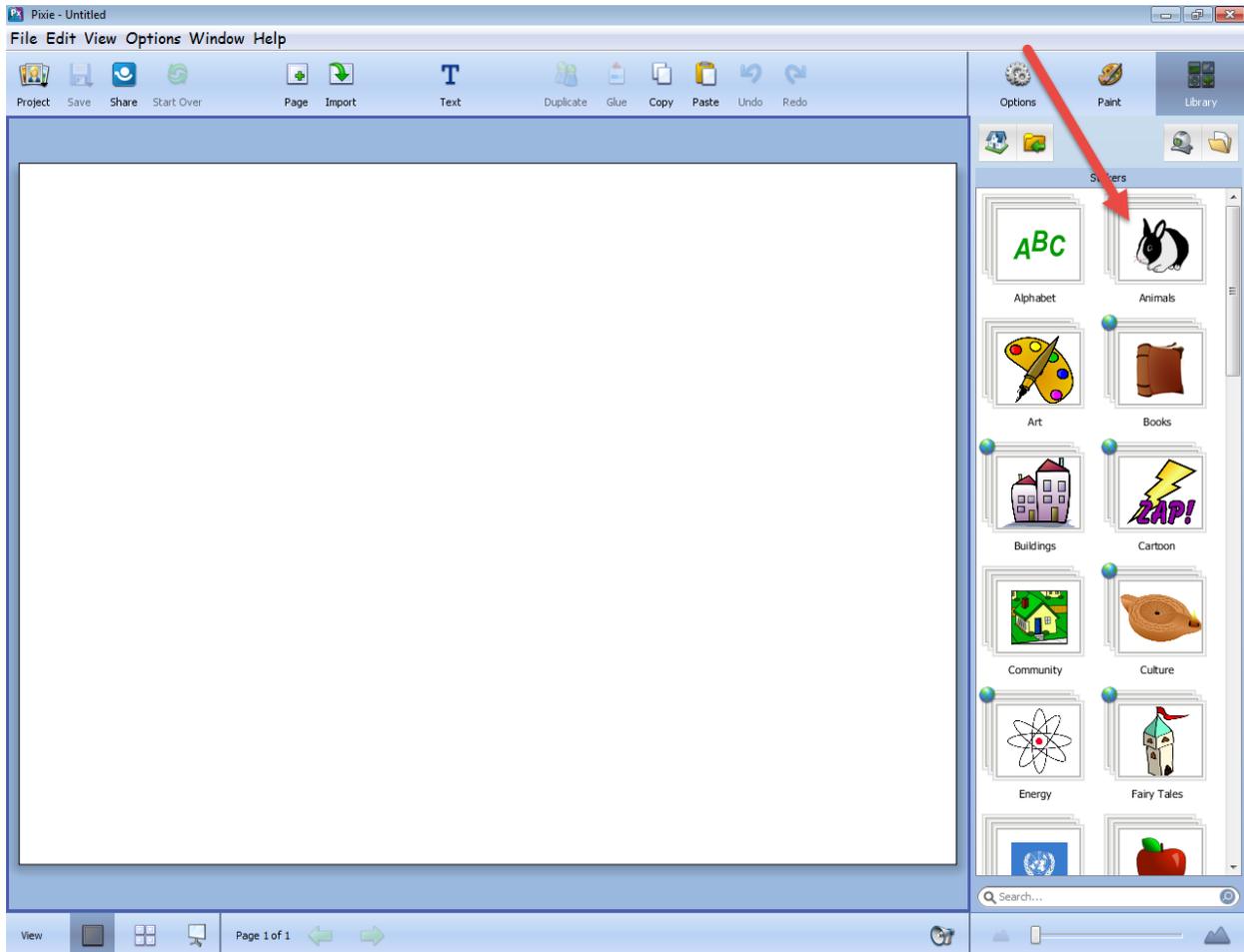
Begin to work your way around the animal pointing out the different features and what their function is. Students will have to use the Internet to find facts about their animal.

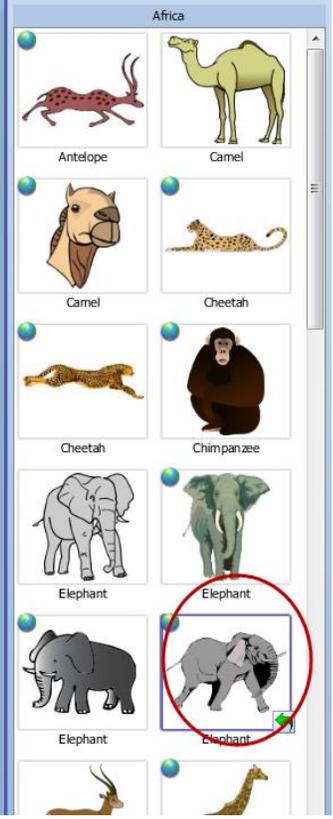
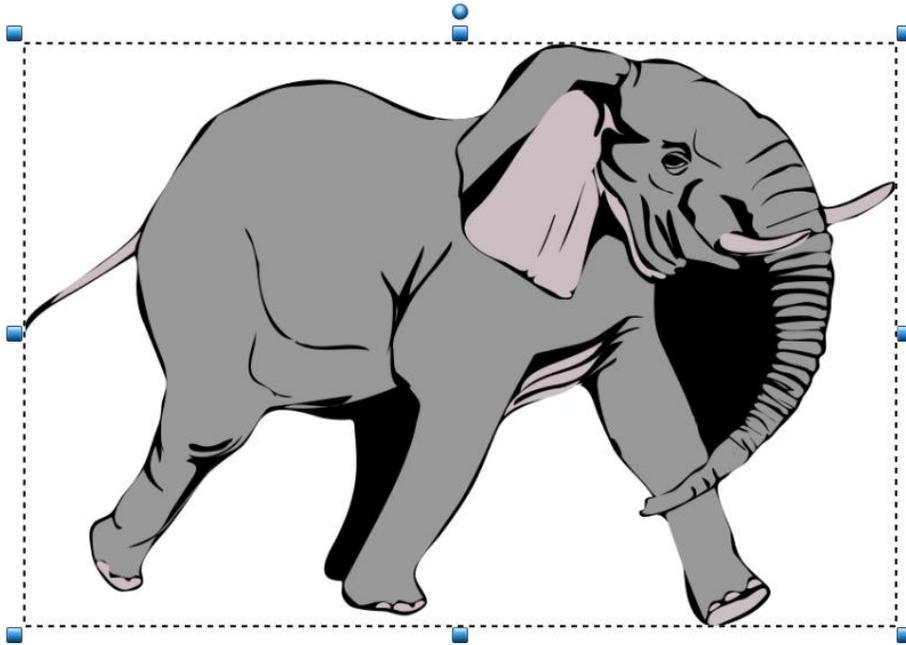
Example:



Here is a sample done with Pixie4

1. Open the library to find the 'Stickers'
2. Go to Animals and select 'Africa'



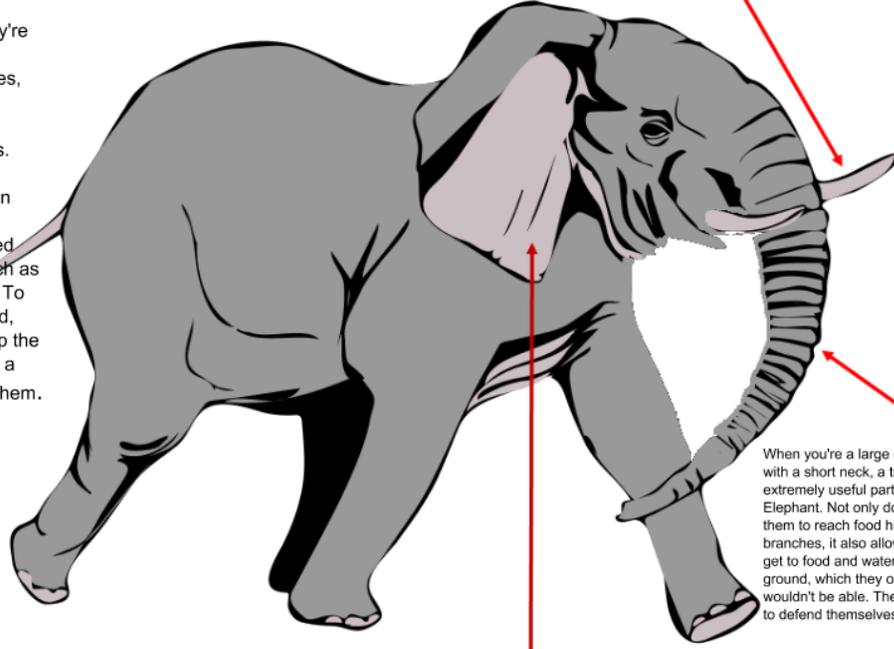


3. Glue down the sticker

Size

Elephants' massive size is a great anti-predator adaptation. Although they're technically prey animals, rather than predatory ones, adults are so large that they're invulnerable to attacks from wild animals. Humans are the only predator that can threaten them. However, baby elephants can be attacked and killed by animals such as lions, tigers and hyenas. To stop calves being harmed, adults in a herd will group the young together and form a protective circle around them.

These tusks help them to strip bark and soft wood off trees, which they eat. Their tusks can also help them to survive through dry spells, as they use them to bore down into the earth and find water in dry riverbeds. In addition, they use them to dig in the ground and uncover salts and other minerals that important to their diet.



When you're a large creature with a short neck, a trunk is an extremely useful part for the Elephant. Not only does it help them to reach food high up in branches, it also allows them to get to food and water on the ground, which they otherwise wouldn't be able. They also use it to defend themselves.

Elephants live in hot conditions and need to be able to cool themselves down. Since they're unable to sweat, they've adapted another solution. They flap their large ears to help cool the blood in their capillaries and distribute the cooler blood through their bodies.

4. Add Text

5. Save Picture

Evaluation:

[Take a Quiz](#) This is a pretty fun site that tests your knowledge on animal adaptations.

Objectives:

Life Processes

3.4 The student will investigate and understand that behavioral and physical adaptations allow animals to respond to life needs. Key concepts include

- a) methods of gathering and storing food, finding shelter, defending themselves, and rearing young; and hibernation, migration, camouflage, mimicry, instinct, and learned behavior.

Writing:

3.8 The student will write legibly in cursive.

3.9 The student will write descriptive paragraphs.

- a) Develop a plan for writing.
- b) Focus on a central idea.
- c) Group related ideas.
- d) Include descriptive details that elaborate the central idea.
- e) Revise writing for clarity.

3.10 The student will write stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports across all content areas.

- a) Use a variety of planning strategies.
- b) Organize information according to the type of writing.
- c) Identify the intended audience.
- d) Revise writing for specific vocabulary and information. Use available technology.