# **How Did It Survive?! Natural Selection and Adaptations**

**Directions:** Read the descriptive paragraph for each organism. Think about the adaptation and how that adaptation helped the organism survive its changing environment. Use evidence and reasoning to answer the question “how did this adaptation help this organism survive natural selection?”

**Scenario 1: Giraffe**

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| Giraffes in sub-Saharan Africa find their food in the leaves on the top of trees. Many giraffes need to eat this food, so there can be competition over it. Sometimes, not all giraffes get the leaves they need to survive. Giraffes with the shorter necks had a more difficult time than those with longer necks. |
| What is the adaptation and how did it help this organism survive natural selection? |

**Scenario 2: Venus’s-Flytrap**

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| Venus’s-Flytraps are plants famous for being carnivorous. That’s because they digest insects! Before adapting, these plants lived in soil that did not have many nutrients. Plants need sunshine, water, and nutrients from the soil to grow and survive. Venus’s-Flytraps trap insects in their leaves and break them down for nutrients. |
| What is the adaptation and how did it help this organism survive natural selection? |

**Scenario 3: Snow Cactus**

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| Snow Cactuses grow high in the Andes Mountains of South America. Although these plants are alive, they cannot move to escape danger. Snow Cactuses have spines, which are similar to thorns and grow in clusters on the cactus. Snow Cactuses have been found to grow together in groups. They have many long, white hairs covering them. |
| What is the adaptation and how did it help this organism survive natural selection? |

**Scenario 4: Poison Dart Frogs**

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| Poison Dart Frogs are easily recognized by their bright colors. They do not blend in well to their tropical, green environments. Poison Dart Frogs have developed their colors over many generations. These colors are not found on other species of frog and are specific to poisonous ones. |
| How did this adaptation help this organism survive natural selection? |

**Reflection:**

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| Choose one scenario from this assignment. Based on what you know about natural selection and how animals and plants develop, make a prediction about what might happen to future generations of that organism. Use reasoning to support your answer. |