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

**Directions:** Read the description 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: 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 2: 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? |

**Directions:** Consider what you know about each organism and adaptation. Use your background knowledge along with your inferring skills to describe a scenario in which this adaptation became necessary for survival. Then use evidence and reasoning to answer the question “how did this adaptation help this organism survive natural selection?”

**Arctic Fox 🡪 White Fur**

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| Describe a scenario in which this adaptation became necessary for survival. |
| How did this adaptation help this organism survive natural selection? |

**Woodpecker 🡪 Long, Pointed Bill**

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| Describe a scenario in which this adaptation became necessary for survival. |
| 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. |