

Field Guide: Student Worksheet



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Activity 2

Adaptations of organisms (Level 5)

Organisms come in all different shapes and sizes. They live in diverse environments and have features or behaviours that are well suited to their habitats, which enable them to survive in that environment.

1. What are the conditions found in grasslands?

Plant adaptations

How do plants live in the grassland environment? Use the Flora and Fauna Field Guide to help explore how plants have adapted to this environment.

2. Complete the following table:

Plant group	Adaptation	Why?
Eucalypt	Thick or thin leaves?	
	In which direction do the leaves hang?	
Grass	In which direction do the leaves grow?	
	Feature of the Serrated Tussock leaves?	
Saltbush	Features of the leaves. 1. _____ 2. _____	

3. Give one example of how grassland plants have adapted to their environment.

4. How have plant seeds adapted to disperse?

Animal adaptations

You will explore bird adaptations. In particular you will observe bird beaks and feet.

5. Use the Flora and Fauna Field Guide to fill in the table for the following birds to explore different beaks and feet; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, the Australian Shelduck and the Straw-necked Ibis.

BIRD	BEAK			
	Draw the beak	Type and description of the shape of the beak	Diet of the bird	Why is the beak this shape?
Long-billed Corella				
Pacific Black Duck				
Straw-necked Ibis				

BIRD	FEET			
	Draw the feet	Type and description of the feet	Habitat of the bird	Why are the feet this shape?
Long-billed Corella				
Pacific Black Duck				
Straw-necked Ibis				

6. Do birds have the same shaped beak? Why/why not?

7. Beaks look similar to tools? Give an example of a bird who's beak resembles the following tools.

Scissors



Straw



Tweezers



8. Do birds have the same shaped feet? Why/why not?

Conclusion

9. Give an example of how plants can survive in grasslands.

10. You investigated three birds; Pacific Black Duck, Long-billed Corella and the Straw-necked Ibis. What would happen if these birds changed habitats? Explain whether these birds could survive in a desert ecosystem?
