

Adaptation

Adaptation is the **evolutionary process** where an organism **(become)** better suited to its **habitat**. This process **(take)** place over many generations. It is one of the basic **phenomena** of biology.

When people speak about adaptation, they often mean a 'feature' (a **trait**) which **(help)** an animal or plant survive. An example is the adaptation of **horses' teeth** to grinding **grass**. Grass **(be)** their usual food; it **(wear)** the teeth down, but horses' teeth continue to grow during life. Horses also have adapted to run fast, which helps them to escape their **predators**, such as **lions**. These features are the **product** of the process of adaptation.

A bird beaks shows an obvious sign of their different ways of life. However, eating a different food also means having a different **digestive system**, **gut**, claws, wings and above all, different **inherited behaviour**. For the major adaptations, what

(change) is not a single trait, but a whole group of features.

Adaptation **(occur)** because the better adapted animals are the most likely to survive, and to reproduce successfully. This process is known as **natural selection**; it is the basic cause of **evolutionary** change.