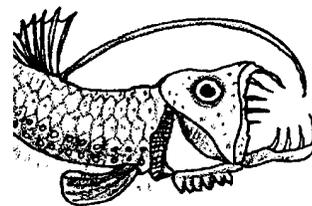


Analysis of Animal Adaptations

Key Concept

1. Deep sea animals have special adaptations which help them survive in their habitat.



Background

Much of what was collected in the trawls and bottom grabs reinforced our earlier assumptions about life in the deep sea. Many things that actually did survive under such immense pressure in a very cold, completely dark environment, with practically nothing to eat, were very strange indeed.

Deep sea animals have many physical adaptations which help them survive in an otherwise inhospitable environment. Adaptations may include structural variations of the fin, mouth, gut, body; special appendages; distinctive coloration patterns; variation or absence of sensory organs; presence or absence of bioluminescent patterns.

Materials

For each student:

- set of deep sea animal picture cards
- adaptation data sheet
- dice
- drawing paper
- markers

Teaching Hints

In Part I of “Analysis of Animal Adaptations”, your students analyze pictures of deep sea creatures to determine their special adaptations. In Part II, students create a new deep sea creature using their data sheets from Part I.

Key Word

adaptation - a structure or behavior that helps the animal survive

Extensions

1. Have students enter the adaptation information in a data base and sort according to various criteria.
2. Have students conduct additional research to find out about other oceanic fishes.
3. Have students use a grid to enlarge or reduce the animals on the picture cards to actual size. They may then wish to color and cut out their pictures to be used as part of a deep sea bulletin board.
4. Students can assume the role of a deep sea fish or an underwater reporter. The “reporter” can then interview the “fish”.
5. Have students use Venn diagrams to sort and categorize deep sea organisms.

Answer Key

- 1-2. Answers will vary depending upon the adaptations of the new fish.