

Critical Thinking Skills

Classification & Adaptation

Skills For Critical Thinking		Reading Comprehension								Hands-On Activities	
		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8		
LEVEL 1	Knowledge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2	Comprehension	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3	Application	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4	Analysis	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5	Synthesis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 6	Evaluation	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



A Case Study: The Koala and Its Adaptations

1. Draw a line from the word on the left to its matching definition. Which word is left over? Use the reading passage or a dictionary to help you write out its definition.

1	physical adaptation	: the regular weather patterns of a place	A
2	marsupial	: when a hand has a second thumb on it	B
3	climate	: something that has been changed for a specific reason	C
4	opposable thumb	: an animal that has a pouch on its front to carry its young	D
5	adaptation	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	E

2. Look at the matched definitions in the question above. Use each vocabulary word in your own sentence. Make sure your sentence shows that you understand what the word means.

- a) physical adaptation _____

- b) marsupial _____

- c) climate _____

- d) opposable thumb _____




A Case Study: The Koala and Its Adaptations

We read how animals depend on their physical features to help them survive in their environment. Do you remember what these physical features are called? **Physical adaptations.** Let's find out how the koala has adapted over time for its life in a tree. Before reading on, can you think of a physical feature that might help an animal live in a tree?

The koala is a medium-sized animal with thick, dense fur. Its fur is mainly gray. It looks like a cuddly teddy bear but it is actually a **marsupial**. What is a marsupial? A marsupial is an animal that has a pouch to carry its young. Can you think of another marsupial? Have you ever seen a kangaroo carrying its young in its front pouch?



Koalas live in hot and dry climates. A **climate** is the regular weather patterns of a place. Since koalas live in a hot climate, you would think they would need to drink a lot of water. They have adapted though by eating a lot of eucalyptus leaves. These leaves have so much water in them that koalas almost never need to drink! Did you know that the word "koala" is actually an aboriginal word meaning "no drink animal"?



Can you think of a physical feature that YOU have that helps you survive in your environment?

Koalas have adapted well to their life in a tree. They sleep for fourteen hours every day and then move from tree to tree at night. Their front paws have long, sharp claws. These help them climb from one tree to the next. Koalas also have another very special adaptation. They have an **opposable thumb**. Look at your own hands. You have one thumb. It would be very difficult to do things without your thumb. Koalas don't have one thumb. They have two! This gives them an excellent grip for their life in a tree.



The Koala and Its Adaptations

1. **Circle** the word **True** if the statement is true. **Circle** the word **False** if it is false.

a) The koala is an example of a marsupial because it carries its young in a pouch on the front of its body.

True**False**

b) A grizzly bear is another good example of a marsupial.

True**False**

c) Koalas need to drink a lot of water, so they live next to rivers and lakes.

True**False**

d) Long, sharp front claws help koalas climb trees. This is one of their physical adaptations.

True**False**

e) Koalas have an opposable thumb. Having a second thumb gives them excellent grip for their life in trees.

True**False**

2. **Circle** the answer that best completes each sentence.

a) Animals depend on their _____ to help them survive in their environment.

physical energy**physical features**

b) A marsupial is an animal that has a _____ to carry its young.

pouch**partner**

c) Koalas live in hot and dry climates. They have adapted well to their life in a _____.

desert**tree**

d) Koalas have an _____ thumb which gives them extra grip for swinging from tree to tree.

opposite**opposable**