Animal Adaptations
3rd grade

Overview
Students learn what an adaptation is and the difference between a physical and behavioral adaptation. Students are then introduced to how animals are classified into categories based upon their characteristics (arthropod, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal). Then they preform a full experimental based upon temperature in a burrow vs. on top of the ground.

Vocabulary
• Adaptation - something a plant or animal has or does to help it survive.
• Physical adaptation - something an animal has on or in its body to help it survive.
• Behavioral adaptation - something an animal does to help it survive (i.e. migration).

NM Science Standards Addressed
1-1-1-3 Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects, events, and measurements.
1-1-1-5 Know that the same scientific laws govern investigation in different times & places.
1-1-2-1 Use a variety of methods to display data and present findings.
1-1-2-2 Understands predictions are based on observations, measurements, and cause-and-effect relationships.
1-1-2-1 Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects, events, and measurements.
1-1-2-2 Pose a question of interest and present observations and measurements with accuracy.
1-1-2-3 Use various methods to display data and present findings and communicate results in accurate mathematical language.
2-2-1-1 Know that an adaptation in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism’s chance for survival.
2-2-1-2 Observe that plants and animals have structures that serve different functions.
2-2-1-3 Classify common animals according to their observable characteristics.

CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed
RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.
SL.3.1.C Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.

CCSS Math Standards Addressed
3.MD.B.3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed
3-LS3-1 Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.
3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.