

Different Types of Adaptation:

**Aquatic, Volant, Cursorial, Fossorial,
Arid, and Arboreal**

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Aquatic animals and their adaptational characteristics



Adaptational characteristics of aquatic animals

- Body of aquatic animals is streamlined i.e. tapered at both ends. Head is blunt and tail is long.
- Body is provided with air sacs or air bladder, so that they do not sink when they stop swimming.
- They have paired and unpaired fins, flippers and paddles and webbed legs for swimming.
- They have gills as respiratory organ.
- Body is provided with lateral line as sense organ.

Terrestrial Animals and Their Adaptational Characteristics

- The animals, which live on land and do their biological activities on land, are called terrestrial animals.

Cursorial Animals

Cursorial animals are those animals which live in open places and are adapted to run on hard ground e.g. lion, deer, horse etc.

Adaptational characters of them are as follows:

- The body is streamlined which helps them for swift movement.
- The limbs are long and strong.
- Locomotion is digitigrade.



Fossorial Animals

Fossorial animals are those animals which are adapted for burrowing mode of life e.g. rabbit, rat, etc.

The adaptational characters of them are as follows:

- The head is small and tapers anteriorly to form snout for digging.
- The forelimbs are short with powerful claws.
- The eyes and the ears are small.



Arboreal Animals

Arboreal animals are those animals which are adapted for climbing e.g. squirrel, chameleon, etc.

The adaptational characters of these animals are as follows:

- The body is stout. Ribs are very much curved, thus thorax becomes semi-circular.
- Locomotion is plantigrade.
- The legs of lizard are provided with adhesive pads that help to hold the wall or other surfaces.
- The muscles of chest are very strong.



Aerial Animals

The animals that are adapted for aerial mode of life are called aerial animals.

The adaptational characters of aerial animals are as follows:

- Body is streamlined, which reduces the air resistance during flying.
- Forelimbs are modified into wings.
- The bones are hollow and spongy.
- The eyes are very sharp and well developed.



Desert Animals

Desert animals are adapted for dry land and hot habitat e.g. camel, lizard, rodents etc.

The adaptational characteristics of desert animals are as follows:

- They are provided with keen senses of sight, smell and hearing.
- They conserve water in water pouches.
- They have thick skin to avoid loss of water.
- Most of them have dull color which blends them with the surrounding environment.

