



Extreme Animals Alive! Knowledge Hunt for Young Explorers

Instructions for Chaperones:

As you guide your group through each gallery, use the questions below to spark curiosity and conversation. At each animal or specimen, have students look closely and observe its features and behaviors.

- Read aloud the main points from the exhibit's text panel, highlighting the animal's important adaptations or abilities.
- Ask the knowledge hunt question, then use the follow-up question to encourage deeper thinking about how the adaptation helps the animal survive.
- Let students share their ideas, draw, or act out answers.
- Remind students to use quiet voices, walk, and stay with the group.

GALLERY 1: WHAT IS ADAPTATION?

1. Animal Superheroes

- *Main Question:*
"If you could be an animal superhero, would you choose to be an **owl**, a **porcupine**, or an **emerald tree boa**? Why did you pick that animal?"
- *Follow-up:*
"How do you think your animal's special powers help it survive in the wild? Can you show me with your hands or body how your animal uses its superpower?"

2. Camouflage Champions

- *Main Question:*
"Look at these animals: the **mossy frog**, **stick insect**, and **mantis**. How do you think each one hides from other animals?"
- *Follow-up:*
"Why do you think it's important for animals to hide or blend in? What might happen if they couldn't?"

3. Super Strength and Super Journeys

- *Main Question:*
"Some animals are super strong or travel really far! How do you think a **rhinoceros beetle** can lift things much heavier than itself? Why do you think **Arctic terns** fly so far every year?"

- *Follow-up:*
“If you had these animals’ superpowers, what would you do with them? Can you think of a time when being strong or traveling far would help you?”

4. Super-Size Mashup!

- *Main Question:*
“If you could mix a big animal, like a **whale**, and a tiny animal, like a **hummingbird**, what kind of new animal would you make? What would it look like?”
- *Follow-up:*
“What special things could your new animal do that help it survive? What might be hard for it if its food or home changed?”

5. Defenders of the Wild

- *Main Question:*
“Here are three animals: the **bombardier beetle**, the **turkey vulture**, and the **six-banded armadillo**. What do you think each animal does to stay safe from danger?”
- *Follow-up:*
“If you were that animal, when would you use your special trick? How do you think predators feel when they see or smell these defenses?”

6. Speed Champions

- *Main Question:*
“Who do you think is faster, the **cheetah** or the **peregrine falcon**? What makes them so speedy?”
- *Follow-up:*
“How are their speed powers alike and how are they different? Why do you think they need to be so fast?”

GALLERY 2: EXTREME POWERS

7. Shape Shifters

- *Main Question:*
“Some animals can change their color, grow back lost parts, or pretend to be something else. Which superpower do you think would help you the most if your world kept changing?”
- *Follow-up:*
“How would you use that superpower if you were an animal? Can you think of a time when changing or fixing yourself would help you?”

8. Mind Control Villains

- *Main Question:*
“Did you know some tiny animals, like parasites, can control other animals’ actions? How do you think they do that?”
- *Follow-up:*
“If you were a superhero, how would you help animals fight back against these mind-control villains?”

9. Glowing in the Dark

- *Main Question:*
“Some animals can glow in the dark! Which glowing animal do you like best, and what do you think their glowing helps them do?”
- *Follow-up:*
“If you could glow too, how would you use your glow to help yourself or your friends?”

10. The Invincible Cockroach

- *Main Question:*
“**Cockroaches** are super tough! Why do you think they can survive things that would hurt other animals?”
- *Follow-up:*
“If you had cockroach powers, what would you do to stay safe? Can you think of any other animals that are really tough?”

GALLERY 3: EXTREME COLD

11. Arctic Superheroes

- *Main Question:*
“Which Arctic animal would you want to be: **a polar bear, a wood frog, or a snowy owl**? What makes them special in the cold?”
- *Follow-up:*
“How do their superpowers help them when it’s freezing? What would you do if you had those powers?”

GALLERY 4: EXTREME HEAT

12. Desert Defenders

- *Main Question:*
“In the hot desert, which animal would you pick to help you stay cool during the day or warm at night?”
- *Follow-up:*
“What tricks or body parts help them survive the desert? How would you use those tricks if you lived there?”

GALLERY 5: EXTREME DARK

13. Nighttime Sidekicks

- *Main Question:*
“If you could team up with any animal that’s great in the dark, which would you choose? What can that animal do that helps it at night?”
- *Follow-up:*
“How do you think seeing, hearing, or feeling in the dark helps animals? When might you want to have those powers?”

GALLERY 6: SUPER SURVIVORS

14. Ancient Animal Teamwork

- *Main Question:*
“Some animals have been around since the time of the dinosaurs! Can you find three ancient animals and tell me how they might have survived a big disaster, like an asteroid hitting the Earth?”
- *Follow-up:*
“What special powers do they have that help them last so long?”