

- Target Grade:** 2
- Science Standard I:** Students will compare changes and adaptations of plants and animals
- Objective:** Students will create a mural and poem about animal or plant adaptations.
- Materials:** butcher paper, crayons, markers, poem examples, paper and pencils
- Time:** 45 minutes

In this activity, students will synthesize what they learned about adaptations at Stokes Nature Center and create a mural and poem that depicts and describes the adaptations.

Lesson Plan:

1. Divide the class into smaller groups. Each group should select a plant or animal to draw and write about, or you can assign a subject to each group.
2. Have each group brainstorm and come up with two adaptations that their plant or animal has that helps them survive in their environment.
3. Each group should then create a mural depicting the plant or animal in its environment and the plant or animal's adaptations.
4. After the group has created a mural, they can work together to create a poem about the animal or plant, either a vertical poem or a modified diamante poem.

Examples:

Vertical poem: create a poem with each line starting with the subsequent letters of the animal or plant's name:

Beaver
Eats wood
Always chopping down trees
Very sharp teeth
Eager to swim
Really furry

Diamante poem: create a diamond shaped poem that talks about the animal and its adaptations.

Beaver
Big, flat tail
Makes a loud whop
Chews through strong wood
Sharp orange teeth
Rodent

Poem structure:

One word: Name of animal / plant

Three words: description and name of adaptation / "smart part"

Four words: what "smart part" does

Four words: what another "smart part" does

Three words: description and name of adaptation / "smart part"

One word: reference to plant or animal

5. After students are done with their murals and poems they can present them to the rest of the class or hang them around the room.