Embracing Change

Adaptations happen slowly over many generations. Camels have adapted to live in dry, hot environments. Their traits allow them to survive.

But what if an organism's environment changes? Things change all the time. Forests are chopped down. Weather shifts. When this happens, organisms can stay and adapt or they can leave and find new homes that will better suit their needs. If they can't do either of these things, they won't survive.

When organisms adapt to their new environments, they must find new ways to survive. They must find their niche. They may adapt with physical changes. They may adapt with behavioral changes. From a tiny ant in your backyard to the elusive jaguar in the jungles, all animals rely on adaptations. Organisms must always be prepared to adapt to change. Embracing this change will help them survive.

Javan Rhino

Poachers, or hunters, kill Javan rhinos for their horns. This is one factor that has forced the animal onto the endangered species list.

Time for a Change

For centuries, humans have changed the environments animals live in. We cut down forests and throw trash into animals' homes. Many animals cannot adapt quickly enough to survive the harsh conditions. Here are some ways you can help out:

- Visit a national park to learn more about the local species of plants and animals.
- Plant a tree.
- Join a wildlife-preservation group.
- Plant native plants.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.

tarsier

One-third of the amphibians in the United States are threatened by extinction.