

Introduction to Animal Adaptations



Mylo, Suzi, and Angelina boarded the school bus for their last day of school before summer vacation.

“What are you going to do this summer, Mylo?” said Suzi.

“I’m going to soccer camp for two weeks, and then we’ll take a family camping trip at the end of the summer. We just bought a new tent and camping gear, so it will be a lot of fun! How about you?”





Suzi took out a picture from her backpack and showed it to her friends. In the picture, a camel walked across a sandy desert as the sun shone brightly. “My grandfather is taking my entire family on a

trip to the Sahara desert. He says I will even get to ride a camel!”

The friends leaned in to find out more. “Wow, the desert. It must be so hot there,” said Angelina. “You’ll have to be really careful. My sister Anna felt sick one day last summer when she forgot to drink enough water. It was super-hot out, and she played for hours out in the sun. My mom said she was dehydrated.”

“Oh wow,” said Suzi. “I’ll have to make sure to bring along tons of water. I really have to start planning. I need to think about what I want to wear and what I need to carry with me when we go out on the sand.”

“I wonder if you can get any ideas from the camels,” said Mylo.

Both girls started laughing. “The camels? I don’t think they’re going to talk to me, Mylo,” said Suzi.





“Very funny. I just meant that since they live in the desert all the time, they must be used to the heat and sand. Look at those super long eyelashes. I bet they help the camel keep the sand out of its eyes.”

Angelina added, “Look at those feet. I bet they have those thick hooves to keep their feet from getting hot as they walk. You better start thinking about what you are going to wear on your feet, Suzi.”

“You’re right, Angelina,” said Suzi. “I need to figure out the perfect shoes for my trip. I want to make sure my feet are protected from the burning hot sand, but I need them to be light for all of the walking I will be doing.”





“I wonder what else we can learn about camels and other plants and animals that live in the desert that would help you figure out the best shoe for your trip,” added Mylo.

The three friends were still talking about camels as they walked into the school. They all hoped they could have at least a little time in the library to help Suzi learn more about life in the desert.

What should Suzi do to prepare for her trip to the desert? What are some ways that animals adapt to the environment in which they live?

How can Suzi use ideas from plants and animals in the area to help her design the ideal shoe for her trip?