

## LIFE ON EARTH

### Life on Earth Has Changed

Many kinds of animals that used to live on Earth are no longer living. There are no more animals of their kind. They are extinct. Remember **extinct** means that all animals of a certain kind are no longer living on Earth.

When an animal becomes extinct, it means that all animals of that kind have died and none live on Earth, and there will not be any more born. You probably know that dinosaurs are extinct. There are no dinosaurs on Earth today and there won't be any more born.

*Let's check what we have learned so far:  
What does the word extinct mean?*

#### Examples



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**Dinosaurs:** all kinds



The Dodo Bird

The Stellar Sea Cow

**The Woolly Mammoth**



These were all amazing creatures. It is sad that they are all gone and that they will never be on this Earth again!

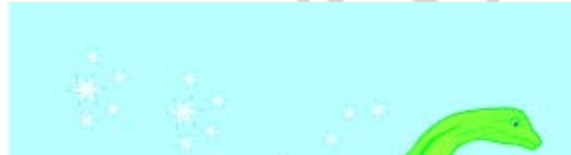
*Let's check what we have learned so far:  
What are two animals that are extinct?*

### **How did these animals become extinct?**

Good question! Sometimes it is hard to say exactly what makes animals become extinct. Sometimes, though, scientists know exactly how it happened.

### **Some Reasons for Extinction:**

Big changes in the climate (the usual weather around them) – over long periods of time the climate in an area can change A LOT – which means it could become VERY hot or VERY cold and stay that way.



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Many times animals could not handle these big changes in the weather, so they died off and their kind became extinct.

2. Animals need a place to live, food to eat, and water to drink. In some places, areas became too crowded and there was not enough space, food, or water for all the animals – so some animals died and their kind became extinct.
3. Sometimes animals become extinct because people take away their homes by cutting down forests. When this happens, animals can die and their kind can become extinct.

4. Sometimes people hunt the same kind of animal too much. This is called over-hunting. If a kind of animal is hunted too much, it often dies off completely and their kind becomes extinct.

*Let's check what we have learned so far:  
How do animals become extinct: Give one reason.*

**Good news:** Many animals have adapted to many changes that happen on Earth so that they CAN survive and NOT become extinct! Hip hip hooray!

Animals have been able to survive in our ever changing world by changing themselves a little. An **adaptation** is a way an animal's body helps it survive where it lives.

### **Adaptations include:**

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suck the

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that it can



✎ **Thick fur:**

Like a POLAR BEAR! A polar bear needs thick fur in order to live in very cold and snowy areas!



→ **Or fur that changes color:**

This hare's fur changes **WHITE** in the winter so that it blends in with the snow! It is **BROWN** in the summer to blend in with the grass and dirt.



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Or h

Bats use th

can't see very well so they depend on their sense of hearing to fly at night and to find where the food is!

They

⇒ **Having a bad odor**

A skunk uses its bad odor to keep animals that might hurt it away from it!

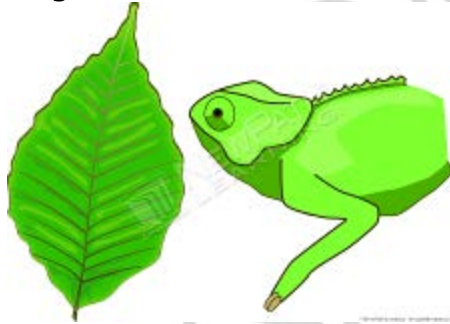


*Let's check what we have learned so far:  
Name one type of animal adaptation.*

## What are some other examples of adaptations?

**Camouflage** means having special skin or fur that changes colors to blend in with what is around. This way no other animals can see them, and if they can't see them, they can't eat them!

*Example:* A chameleon is the best example!  
A chameleon's skin changes color to blend in wherever it is!



**Mimicry** is when a weaker animal looks like a stronger animal to protect itself.

**Example:**  
which can  
they stay a

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The **Viceroy**  
they would  
butterfly LOOKS like a monarch butterfly so animals do not eat it either!

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ow this so  
them.

dy, and  
oy



Viceroy



Monarch

*Let's check what we have learned so far:  
What is mimicry?*