Design an Organism **Name_____per___date___**

Introduction: Living things have a variety of genes that determine their characteristics. In any environment, the genes that best help an organism survive create what scientists call **adaptations**. In this activity, you will pretend that the organisms you are creating have a huge variety of genes that could be adapting to some unusual environments. In nature, living things do occupy nearly every environment that we know of. Living things are very adaptable!

Materials: colored pencils, markers or crayons

Procedures:

1. Pick one of the eight environments provided. Start by listing the conditions you think will be present. Think about the amount of light, temperature, smell, food sources, terrain, etc.
2. Describe the adaptations and body plan of the organism on the data table. Be sure to think about size, shape, appendages (arms and legs) color, surface, how it catches or eats food, how does it keep warm/cold, how it protects/defends against attackers, what kind of shelter it needs, how it reproduces, etc.
3. Draw the organism in its environment on the back of this paper. Use color.
4. Point to and label 6 specific adaptations your organism has on the paper.

My environment is:_____

Conditions in my environment	Adaptations and body plan

Environment Choices

Movie Theater Floor	Inside a Computer
Shoe Store	Freezer
Bedroom Closet	Recycle Bin
Your Locker	Garbage Truck

Conditions	Adaptations
Light	Size and Shape
Temperature	Appendages (arms, legs, antennas)
Food Source	Color
Terrain (wet, dry, bumpy, slick)?	How it moves
	How it reproduces
Water Source	How it gets and eats food
Shelter	How it protects itself