

## Animal Adaptations

Animal adaptations are special skills that help an animal survive. An adaptation can be physical, such as camouflage, or behavioral, such as hibernation. An animal that has adapted to live in the grassland ecosystem is the cougar. One adaptation the cougar has is the ability to retract their claws. When the cougar does not need their claws they pull them into a covering in their paw (more information). This is important because the cougar's claws are able to stay sharp for hunting and climbing (importance). Another adaptation is the cougar's powerful legs. The strong muscles in their legs allows them to leap in the air up to 10 feet (more information). The ability to jump high and far distances makes the cougar an excellent hunter (importance). A physical adaptation of the cougar is its brown colored fur. The cougars brown fur is the same color as the surrounding grasses and rocks (more information). If the cougar was a different color, it would not be able to blend in with its surroundings and be able to hunt prey as easily (importance). A second physical adaptation of the cougar is their long tail. The long tail allows the cougar to keep its balance as it leaps and lands (more information). When hunting, the cougar has to be able to run and jump fast, without their long tail, they would not be able to keep their balance while chasing their prey (importance). Animal adaptations in every ecosystem are important, because they allow animals like to the cougar to survive in that ecosystem.