

# PLANT ADAPTATIONS

Just like animals, plants adapt or change over time to suit their habitat. These adaptations help plants survive a range of different living and non-living environmental conditions.

## Activity 1: Complete the glossary

A glossary is an alphabetical list of words or terms relating to a specific subject. Use the *Online Resources* on the last page, your own online research, plant books and dictionary to fill in definitions for each word. There is also space to add a few more words you may have learnt during your research.

GLOSSARY: PLANT ADAPTATION	
WORD	DEFINITION
<b><i>Adaptation</i></b>	
<b><i>Abiotic</i></b>	
<b><i>Biotic</i></b>	
<b><i>Environment</i></b>	
<b><i>Insert your own words below</i></b>	

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## Activity 2: Plant Adaptation List

Before you start your own survey, it's useful to learn a little more about plant adaptations.

Choose **four adaptations** from the list below to complete the following table.  
Don't forget to use the *Online Resources* on page 6 to help with your research.

- *Hairy leaves/stem*
- *Scaly leaves/stem*
- *Shiny leaves*
- *Stunted growth*
- *Small leaves*
- *Flexible stem/trunk*
- *Waxy leaves*
- *Rolled/needle leaves*

### PLANT ADAPTATION LIST

Adaptation	How do adaptations help this plant survive?
<i>Example:</i> Thick bark	It stops plants losing or evaporating too much water through their trunk and branches so can survive in dry places or during drought.

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## Activity 3: Your Plant Survey!

You are now going to explore plant adaptations by conducting your own survey of plants in and around your home or school.

### 1. Choose a survey site/s:

Find one or two different areas with safe access to plants. This could be your backyard, a local park, school yard or another outdoor nature place.

### 2. Choose two plants:

Add the names of two plants to the table. If you don't know what they are, write a description and take a picture if you can, then try the following:

- Look in garden or plant books
- Look online (don't forget the links on the last page)
- Ask an adult who might know
- Ask your parent or teacher to upload a photo to the iNaturalist app where an expert will help identify it for you!

### 3. Complete your survey!

Follow the instructions on each page to complete your survey.

***Want to share your findings, or ask our Education Team a question? Please email us at [education@gorcc.com.au](mailto:education@gorcc.com.au).***



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**PLANT A (Name):**

**PLANT B (Name):**

.....  
**Draw a leaf & label adaptations**  
(eg. shape, feel, patterns)

.....  
**Draw a leaf & label, describing texture,**  
(eg. shape, feel, patterns)

**Draw the plant shape & label**  
**adaptations (eg. tall, thin, wide).**

**Draw the plant shape & label**  
**adaptations (eg. tall, thin, wide).**

**PLANT A (Name):**

**PLANT B (Name):**

.....  
**Draw any flowers or seeds and label their adaptations. (If you can't see any, look up images online or in books)**

.....  
**Draw any flowers or seeds and label their adaptations. (If you can't see any, look up images online or in books)**

**In dot points, list how all of these adaptations help the plant survive in its habitat?**

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# Online Resources

## Plant Identification Resources

Surfcoast Nature Search

<https://scnaturesearch.com.au/>

City of Greater Geelong: Coastal Indigenous Plants

<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/indigenousplants/article/item/8ce6ce93a7706fc.aspx>

Geelong Native Plants Nursery

<https://www.geelongnativeplants.com.au/>

ANGAIR Fact sheets (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna)

<https://www.angair.org.au/knowledge-bank/factsheets>

Royal Botanic Gardens: VICFLORA

<https://vicflora.rbq.vic.gov.au/flora/bioregions/otway-plain>

Plant Finder

<https://www.gardensonline.com.au/gardenshed/plantfinder/>

Gardening Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/plant-finder/>

iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

## Plant Adaptation Resources

You at the Zoo – Plant Adaptations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVfV5LMXh2s>

Adaptations in Plants-Video lesson for kids

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2CTwj\\_b0hg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2CTwj_b0hg)

Adaptation in Plants – Science for Grade 5 Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR5edeN2CnQ>

Plant Adaptations CK-12 Foundation

<https://www.ck12.org/c/biology/plant-adaptations/lesson/Plant-Adaptations-BIO/>

## Teachers Notes & Curriculum Links

This resource has been designed to cater for students in Levels 5 and 6. It is suggested this be completed as a pre-excursion resource or to consolidate learning after visiting a coastal space, or other natural place if remote learning. We hope your students enjoy and find this activity meaningful, and we would appreciate any photos, details or links to students work to inspire others. These can be sent to our Education team at [education@gorcc.com.au](mailto:education@gorcc.com.au).

### VICTORIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

#### LEVELS 5 & 6

Science	Elaborations
Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (VCSSU074)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• explaining how particular adaptations aid survival, for example, nocturnal behaviour, silvery coloured leaves of dune plants</li><li>• describing and listing adaptations of living things suited for particular Australian environments</li></ul>
The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (VCSSU075)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• investigating how changing the physical conditions for plants impacts on their growth and survival, for example, changing salt water concentrations, using fertilisers or transferring to a different soil type</li></ul>

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