

Organism: Any living thing that carries out life activities on its own

Traits: Characteristics that determine how an organism looks, acts, or functions

Heredity: The passing of traits from parents to their offspring

Inherited traits: Characteristics passed from parents to their offspring

Learned traits: Characteristics or behaviors that are learned by following the examples of the parents

Species: Groups of plants or animals that can only reproduce among themselves

Specialized structures: Body parts unique to a certain organism

Examples of specialized structures:

- Snowshoe rabbit: Lives in a cold environment, has small ears to keep in the heat, and has broad feet to travel on the snow
- Jackrabbit: Lives in hot, dry areas; has long ears to release heat; and has powerful hind legs to outrun predators
- Woodpecker: Has a climbing foot
- Duck: Has a swimming foot
- Emu: Has a running foot
- Hawk: Has a grasping foot

Environment: The surrounding in which an organism lives

Examples of world environments: desert, plain, tropic, tundra, grassland, mountain, forest, wetland