



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Education

*Garden STEM at Home*  
*Can It Be Real?*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



### OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE UNIQUE PLANT AND ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS TO UNDERSTAND HOW ORGANISMS ARE ADAPTED TO PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTS.

### SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

### BACKGROUND

Adaptation is the result of the combined effects of variation and natural selection. Over the course of millennia, this has resulted in spectacularly unique adaptations.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explore students' understanding of the term fictitious and explain any misunderstandings.
2. Using the Resource Guide below, share the "Who's Who?" student page with students. You may also include the Texas-specific version linked below.
3. Read the italicized description and ask students to determine if each plant or animal is real or fictitious.
4. Sort the species into two groups: real or fictitious.
5. Reveal that all are real species and use the remaining descriptions to further explore each species.
6. Ask students to think of other unique adaptations that they know of and then share the "Amazing Animals & Plants" student document. Are there any overlaps with the adaptations they shared?
7. Ask students to choose one of the species listed to research further.
8. Students will create a poster or digital presentation to share new learnings about their chosen species.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the Can It Be Real? Texas Connections Resource Guide from PLT:

[http://plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT\\_Texas/Content/Texas\\_Connection/Activity%2011%20Can%20It%20Be%20Real.pdf](http://plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT_Texas/Content/Texas_Connection/Activity%2011%20Can%20It%20Be%20Real.pdf)

Explore the Can It Be Real? Additional Resources Guide from PLT:

<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-11-can-it-be-real/>

Plants That Never Bloom by Ruth Heller; ISBN: 0698115589.

There's a Babirusa in my Bathtub! by Maxine Rose Schur; ISBN: 1584691182.

Bizarre Bugs by Doug Wechsler; ISBN: 1590780957.