



DIVISION: EPIC ANIMALS

Some especially notable species appear again and again across time, geography, and culture. And some animals are named for works of words, from novels to poem to song to screenplays.

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1: soft padded paws

- *Their long tail feather help steer and guide the bird when darting after their insects making them excellent hunters.*

Adaptation 2: Strong swimming ability

- *Sharp beaks allow for precise capture of prey even in midair. Allows their hunting to be precise.*

Adaptation 3: Powerful Bodies

- *Keen eyesight. Allows them to see from wide field of view being able to capture prey more efficiently.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Subtropical open woodland. Found in south Asia including Nepal.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

They consume insects. 60% of bees, 25% wasps, and 15% other.

Size:

- *Range from 7 to 9 inches in length Can weigh from 26 to 33 grams.*

Summary:

- *They are called chestnut due to the color of their forehead, crown, nape, lower face, and ear coverts. They have vibrant green and blue colors displaying over their feathers.*

Chestnut-headed bee eater

(Merops leschenaultia)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Known for fighting snakes really well. They avoid the snake's initial strike, causing the snake not to retract quickly enough to inject venom. They engage with their snake opponents for 1 hour, causing the snake to lose and be tired.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Use scent marking for communication. The males use this during breeding season. The spray can cover huge distances.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Lack sense of fear for scorpions. They pick scorpions up and throw them between their back legs, and break the scorpion. Same process to open eggs as well.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *They can be found in an abundance of biomes such as agricultural, anthropogenic, grassland, forest, shrublands. They live in tropical, arid or temperate climates.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They are omnivores meaning they eat both plants and animals. Specifically, rats, mice, lizards, snakes and beetles. They eat birds (and their eggs), as well as fruit and berries.*

Size:

They range in length from 14.2 to 17.7 inches. They can weigh 2-3.7 pounds.

Summary:

- *Native to the Indian subcontinent and west Asia. They live in burrows among groves of trees. They are one of the snakes' deadliest predators. They can be grey in fur and coarser than other mongooses.*

Indian Grey Mongoose (*Urva edwardsii*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Echolocation* – allows Sperm Whales to sense predators and prey in the absence of light.

Adaptation 2:

Adaptation 3:

- *Description*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Description*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Description*

Size:

- *Sperm Whales are the Largest Mammals on Earth. They can grow up to 52 feet long.*

Summary:

- *Description*

Sperm Whale

(Physeter macrocephalus)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Giant, spiked suckers – The strength of these chitin teeth lined suckers can leave opponents with severe scars*

Adaptation 2:

- *Travel – Due to their large size, giant squid can travel a significant distance while using less energy compared to some of their oceanic counterparts.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Arm regeneration – Giant squid can regenerate limbs*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Deep sea – Atlantic, Pacific, and the Southern ocean*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Fish, other squid, shrimp, small whales*
- *Tertiary consumer*

Size:

- *Around 60 ft*
- *Largest/second largest living invertebrate*

Summary:

- *Giant squid are some of the largest living invertebrates known to exist. They live in the deep sea and consume fish, shrimp, small whales, and other squid. Their advantages are their large suckers, colossal size, and ability to regenerate limbs.*

Giant Squid

(*Architeuthis dux*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1: Keen sense of hearing & powerful vision

- *Acute sense of hearing, which helps them to hunt prey. Rotating ears to focus in on their prey. They can also see at night (nocturnal), which helps them to find prey both during the day and at night.*

Adaptation 2: Powerful Jaw

- *Their bite can deliver a force of 1,050 PSI (enough to crush the throat of their prey). Their bite force is twice that of a lion.*

Adaptation 3: Striped, orange fur (camouflage)

- *Orange, striped skin helps to hide them from animals, behind bushes and tall grass. They blend into the green environment due to many animals having dichromatic vision (only allowing them to see blue and green).*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Wide range of habitats such as lowland evergreen forests, taiga, grasslands, tropical forests, and mangrove swamps. They live in South, Southeast Asia and Russia far east.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *In the 3rd trophic level, secondary consumer which preys on primary consumers. Their diet is meat-based and consists of deer, cattle, wild pigs, elephants, birds, monkeys, fish, etc.*

Size:

- *Largest of all Asian big cats, can grow between 6-10 feet long and weigh up to 660 pounds (3 ft tall, 10 cm teeth, and big claws)*

Summary:

- *From their orange and striped skin, that helps them camouflage to their 3ft tail, Tigers have more than adapted to survive but are a great competitor in the tournament. Living primarily in South, Southeast Asia their diet consists of meats like deer, wild pigs, birds, fish, etc.*

Tiger

(Panthera tigris virgata)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1: soft padded paws

- *Tigers can move silently through their habitat, as they have soft, padded paws and retractable claws. These soft padded paws allow tigers to quietly approach prey without alerting them.*

Adaptation 2: Strong swimming ability

- *Tigers are great swimmers. As there are often found in habitats with vast water sources, their swimming abilities allow them to cross rivers and lakes to pursue prey or find new territory.*

Adaptation 3: Powerful Bodies

- *Tigers have muscular bodies with forelimbs and shoulders that allow them to pounce on their prey with great force*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Tigers are highly adaptable animals capable of surviving in a range of habitats, from dense forests to open grasslands and wetlands*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Tigers are apex predators, they sit at the top of the food chain within their ecosystem, and mainly consumer herbivores.*

Size:

- *Tigers are the largest cat species in the world. They can grow between 6-10 feet long and weigh up to 660 pounds*

Summary:

- *Tigers are the largest living cat species in the world. Their adaptations and traits enhance their survival abilities. Tigers are strong, muscular, and fierce animals that easily adapt to their environments.*

Tiger

(*Panthera tigris virgata*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Long legs that are well adapted for running making them move quick and fast traveling far and faster to find food.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They have large skulls and jaws that are well suited to catching and feeding on large animals.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Different senses of smell, hearing an vision, that detect prey and one another.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Siberian Taiga (cold and forested region)*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *A wolf mainly eats meat as food*

Size:

- *Sizes of wolf vary depending on their region but adult males wolves are about 5- 6.5 feet long and weigh 70 to 145 pounds while females are about 4.5-6 feet long and weigh 60 to 100 pounds.*

Summary:

- *A wolf is a large, wild, dog-like carnivore that belongs to the family Canidae. It has long muzzle, short ears, long legs and a long bushy tail. The fur that on the wolf can be in any color combination of grey, white, taupe, brown and black. Wolves are intelligent animals as they travel in packs in long distances.*

Wolf

(Canis lupus lupus)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They have keen senses that allow the wolves to pursue prey at 60 km.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They adapted large canine teeth and powerful jaws of predatory behavior.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Larger size compared to other wolf species.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Found throughout Europe and Asia, occupying biomes such as mountains, tundras, taigas, and forest.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They are carnivores that consume large animals such as moose, elk, bison, musk, and oxens. They act as top predators.*

Size:

- *They are typically about 2 meters long and 76 cm tall. However, a Russian wolves are usually 105-160 cm long and 80-85 cm tall, while Italian wolves are 110-148 cm long and 50-70 cm tall.*

– Summary:

- *A large wolf species residing throughout Eurasia, with varying features along different regions. They have keen senses, powerful jaws and teeth that enables them to be top predators, consuming large prey.*

Wolf

(Canis lupus lupus)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Stags have large antlers that can grow several feet long, which they use for defense during battles.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They have a powerful roar which they use to intimidate rivals.*

Adaptation 3:

- *There stomach has four chambers to better digest food.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

Stag's can be found alost all contenets and can be found in various habitats like mountains, forests and grass lands.

Diet and Trophic Level:

They mainly eat grass, shrubs, mushrooms aswell as other vegetation. They fall in the 2nd tropich level as they are herbivors which makes them primary consumers.

Size:

Stags tend to vary in size but are around 4-5 feet at the sholder and can weigh around 300-500.

Summary:

Stags are very adaptable animals who can be found in many different environments. They are relitively larg in size and fall in the 2nd tropic level

Stag

(*Cervus elaphus*)

Tashfeen Shafi



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Description*

Adaptation 2:

- *Description*

Adaptation 3:

- *Description*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Description*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Description*

Size:

- *Description*

Summary:

- *Description*

Boar

(*Sus scrofa*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They have special feathers on nostril to kept moisture*

Adaptation 2:

- *They have wedged shaped tails*

Adaptation 3:

- *They have a high metabolism to generate a lot of heat*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *They are found in temperate habitats in Eurasia and North America*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They are primary consumers with an omnivorous diet*

Size:

- *They are typicaly 21 to 28 inches and have a wingspan of 46 to 60 inches*

Summary:

- *I think that ravens would win because they are very intelligent animals and can adapt to many different habitats*

Raven

(*Corvus corax*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They can fly up to 79 MPH, allowing them to get away quickly from a fit*

Adaptation 2:

- *They have a wingspan ranging from 8.2 to 11.5 feet, allowing them to glide faster and longer away from the fight*

Adaptation 3:

- *Have large bills that allow them to grasp things and possibly attack predators*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *They can be found temperate grasslands, and especially in South America, Oceania, and East Asia*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They have high-level consumers and carnivores, eating mainly fish, squid, and the occasional crustacean.*

Size:

- *They are bigger than you would, being able to weight about 25 pounds and can be around 50 inches*

Summary:

- *They spend most of their life in flight, and only land down to breed. They are one of the world's largest birds and can travel as far as 500km, allowing them to efficiently move from place to place.*

Wandering Albatross

(*Diomedea exulans*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They have small blade-like teeth that would allow them to eat*

Adaptation 2:

- *Have deft fins that make them extremely agile swimmers*

Adaptation 3:

- *Often blend into the dark-ocean floor as most of them are of a grey-ish tint*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Can be founded in the waters by the Middle East and Mediterranean, in warm waters*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They eat bony fish and cephalopods*

Size:

- *They are medium-sized, being about 15 inches max at length*

Summary:

A primary consumer, the bigeye houndshark is native to warm waters and has the benefit of having fast speed and sharp teeth

Bigeye Houndshark



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *One of the many adaptations are their beaks. Starlings have strong pointed beaks that help the birds open seeds for them to eat.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Another adaptation is their camouflage. The starlings have very vibrant feathers that change color in different lights. This adaptation helps with hiding from predators.*

Adaptation 3:

- *The last adaptation is mimicry. They have the ability to create sounds of other animals to confuse the predators.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *The starlings are able to adapt to many geographic ranges including urban areas, grasslands, and wetlands. They are native to the continents Asia, Africa, and Europe.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Their diet consists of small insects, bird eggs, seeds and fruits. Their trophic level is both primary and secondary consumer.*

Size:

- *Their size is about 20 to 23 cm long, and can weigh up to 100 grams*

Summary:

- *The starling is a beautiful flight animal, bird, that is a primary consumer who uses camouflage and mimicry to avoid predators. They vary in the environment that they live in, ranging from Europe to Africa.*

Starling

(*Sturnus vulgaris*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Flight lets you get the high fruits bugs and also to not get eaten and to not be escaped. 48 mph speed*

Adaptation 2:

- *Form flying bird mobs to evade predators called murmuring.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Opportunistic feeding lets them eat most things that fit in their mouths*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *All of the united states lower Canada all of Europe*
- *Down to the great European dessert*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Primary and secondary and tertiary consumer eating*
- *Fruit, seeds, nuts, pollen, & insects.*

Size:

- *Between 58 and 101 pounds*

Summary:

- *Strong wings allow them to ram into their victims with speeds such that they kill with they're strong beak muscles.*

Starling

(*Sturnus vulgaris*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- They build nests amidst straws of corn above ground to be safe.

Adaptation 2:

- They are good climbers using their tails to escape predators and ascend vegetation.

Adaptation 3:

- They are smaller than most animals so they can get away quicker and are hidden in the tall grasses.

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- They live within Grasslands located in Europe and Asia.

Diet and Trophic Level:

- Their diet consists of a variety of seeds, grasses, fruit, and grain. In the summer it expands to larvae, and insects. They are Secondary Consumers.

Size:

- Small mouse ranging in size from 55 to 75mm. With a tail that is usually 50 to 75 mm long.

Summary:

- A small rodent that is native to Europe and Asia. Typically found in tall ground vegetation. It has large eyes and ears.

Harvest Mouse

(Micromys minutus)



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Adaptation 2:

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Adaptation 3:

- *They are smaller than most animals so they can get away quicker and not be seen in the tall grasses.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Grassland, in Europe and Asia.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They eat a variety of seeds, grasses, fruit, and grain. In the summer its larvae, and insects. Secondary Consumers.*

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- *Small mouse ranging in size from 55 to 75mm. With a tail that is usually 50 to 75 mm long.*

Summary:

- *A small rodent that is native to Europe and Asia. Typically found in tall ground vegetation. It has large eyes and ears.*

Harvest Mouse

(Micromys minutus)



Catfish

(*Peckoltia greedoi*)

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They swim in groups so that they can confuse the predator and protect themselves.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They have super strong scales that allow it to survive attacks from razor-toothed predators.*

Adaptation 3:

- *They are nocturnal hiding under rocks to avoid predators. So, they can see in the dark and hide when a predator comes.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Found in the Gurupi River drainage of Brazil. Living in shallow and rocky riffles of the water.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They feed on algae, rotting fish food, and leftover food that has fallen to them. Also, vegetables. Secondary Consumer.*

Size:

- *They can measure from 45 to 78 mm in standard length.*

Summary:

- *The name refers to the long barbels or feelers, they have the mouth of a fish and cat whiskers. Many of them have spines in front of the fins. They are primarily in freshwater environments.*



Catfish

(*Peckoltia greedoi*)



Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Have external spines and whiskers which are venom.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They can lock their spines and fins out in order to serve as protection.*

Adaptation 3:

- *They have great auditory sense and are able to communicate with each other.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Inland and Coastal waters of all continents except for Antarctica.*

Diet & Trophic Level:

- *Other fish, Mollusk, Crayfish, Snails, Insects, clams, algae, etc.*

Size:

- *Certain Species can grow up to 15 feet long (up to 440lbs)*

Summary:

- *Description*

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *They can change colors based on their mood, which can be useful if they change colors to camouflage to match their environment, when they're scared of predators.*

Adaptation 2:

- *They're small in size, which could provide them with an advantage over animals who need more space to attack their prey and who are larger. They can fit in smaller places, which could be useful for hiding.*

Adaptation 3:

- *They're eyes move quickly in different directions, which allows them to be more aware of their surroundings.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Found only in Tarzanville, Madagascar in low tree and bush branches in forests.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Insects and larvae; secondary consumers.*

Size:

- *These chameleons can range from 119 –150 mm.*

Summary:

- *Tarzan chameleons are secondary consumers found in the Tarzanville, Madagascar. They mainly consume insects and larvae. Its size can range from 119-150 mm. They can change colors based on their mood, they're small, and they are able to be hyperaware of their surroundings.*

Tarzan Chameleon

(Calumma tarzan)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1: Pedipalp (pinchers)

- *A secondary pair of forward appendages that are lateral to the jaws of the Schizomid and help it catch prey, grind into pieces, then extract the insides.*

Adaptation 2: Hexapod

- *These organisms have six legs that are used for walking; the two hind legs were adapted to jump high and far as part of an escape response.*

Adaptation 3: Feelers (sensory organs)

- *There are two very front legs that are used as feelers to examine soil, determine size of prey/predators, and note any extremities while Schizomid's travel underground because they have no actual eyes.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Generally tropical and subtropical habitats; mainly distributed in a variety of subterranean landforms in semiarid Western Australia and the caves on Barrow Island.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Secondary consumers, as they are carnivore and consumer a range of invertebrates including millipedes, orms, isopods, springtails, and other schizomids.*

Size:

- *5 mm – 10 mm*

Summary:

- *Schizomids, often mistaken as spiders, are small, soil-dwelling invertebrates have two front feelers used to traverse the earth, six legs that are used to launch onto prey and capture it with their pinchers to suck out the inside of the prey. Inhabiting caves in Western Australia and other hot, dry places.*

Schizomid

(Draculoides bramstokeri)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1: first leg modified into a sensory whip

- their first pair of legs modified into long, whip-like appendages called flagella. These flagella are covered in specialized sensory organs called setae, which help them navigate their dark and cluttered environment.

Adaptation 2: spermatophore web building

- *The male spider creates an enticing web for the female with a sack of sperm on it and the female comes to pick the sack up to fertilize her eggs whenever she wants.*

Adaptation 3: front leg hooks

- *Possess front hoots to hang onto their mate for reproduction competition.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Commonly found in tropical and subtropic areas like SE Asia, and India.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Secondary consumers, schizomid are carnivores that often eat isopods, roaches, and other schizomids.*

Size:

- *5 mm – 10 mm*

Summary: schizomids are known as short tailed whip scorpions and are very small. these nocturnal predators that thrive in dark damp habitats.

Schizomid

(Draculoides bramstokeri)

