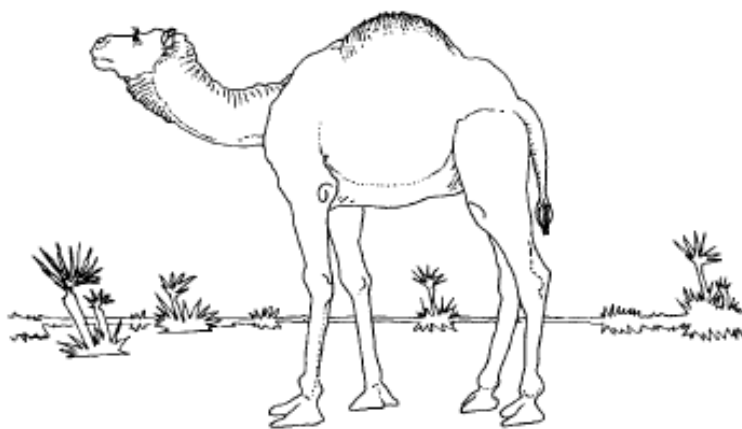


Nature is good at protecting living things against difficult conditions. Think about camels, for example. Camels may look rather odd, but this is because they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions of hot, dry deserts. Here are some of the ways in which they have adapted themselves so effectively over thousands of years:

- **Broad feet** which spread the camel's weight and stop it sinking into the sand.
- **Knobbly knees** which allow the camel to kneel down on hot sand and sharp rocks.
- **Long eyelashes** which keep the sand out of the camel's eyes during desert storms.
- One or two **humps** which store large amounts of fat for food.
- A **large belly** which acts as a reservoir – the camel only has to drink every two weeks.
- A **thick, hairy coat** which protects it against heat during the day and cold at night.
- A **special nose** which can close completely to keep the sand out.
- **Tough lips** and **mouth** allowing the camel to eat thorny desert plants without getting hurt.
- The mother has **rich, creamy milk** which helps her young to grow quickly and healthily.



Tasks

Draw a horizontal line across the middle of the back of this worksheet.

- 1 In the space above the line, draw a camel. You may copy the illustration on this page. Add brief labels (eg 'Broad feet' or 'Knobbly knees') to your sketch, using the list above.
- 2 Read the information in the box below.

Coniferous trees have adapted to living in cold, dry and often steep mountain areas. The whole tree is shaped like a cone so that the snow does not build up on it. The branches bend easily so that the snow can slip off instead of breaking them. The leaves are shaped like needles so that water is not lost into the dry air. The needle-like leaves have a thick, waxy coating which protects them from cold, dry winds. The seeds are protected inside cones which only open up and shed their seeds when it is warm. Coniferous trees are evergreen; they do not have to grow a new set of leaves in the short summer. The roots are very shallow so that the trees can grow in thin, poor mountain soils.

In the bottom half of your page, draw a coniferous tree. Add brief labels, based on the information provided in the box. Then colour your drawing in.



Follow-up

Choose **two** other animals or trees. List the ways in which each one has adapted to living in its environment.