

Amazing Animal Adaptations Dress-A-Beaver Activity

- 1. Swimming flippers** (placed on student's feet) represent the hind feet of a beaver.
Adaptation: The hind feet of a beaver are webbed. Webbed feet enhance the swimming ability of this animal.
- 2. Swimming goggles** (placed over student's eyes) represent the nictitating membrane on the eyes of a beaver.
Adaptation: Beavers have a clear eyelid called a nictitating membrane that closes when they dive underwater. This helps them see when they are swimming.
- 3. Canoe paddle** (placed on the floor, between the student's feet) represents the beavers' tail.
Adaptation: Beavers use their tail as a rudder, to help the beaver maneuver and steer while swimming. They also use their tail to warn of possible danger, by slapping it on the surface of the water. Acting as a stool, beavers will sit up on their tail to chew on tree bark.
- 4. Fur or warm coat** (put on student) represents thick warm fur of the beaver to keep warm in cold weather.
Adaptation: Beavers have two layers of fur. The outer fur is called guard fur, and the under fur, closest to their bodies, keeps them warm.
- 5. Raincoat** (put on student over fur/warm coat) represents waterproof fur.
Adaptation: Beavers can "waterproof" their fur by spreading oil from their glands onto their outer fur coat.
- 6. Tongue depressors** (have student hold up tongue depressors under their front lip) represent the teeth of the beaver.
Adaptation: Beavers have very sharp teeth, called incisors, that constantly grow. Their teeth grow as fast as they are worn away.
- 7. Balloon** (blow up balloon) represents the beavers' large lung capacity.
Adaptation: Beavers have a large lung capacity, which allows them to remain underwater for 15-minutes. However, they usually just dive underwater for a couple minutes, unless they are working underwater.
- 8. Earmuffs** (put over student's ears) represent the ear openings that beavers close when they dive underwater.
Adaptation: Beavers have a nictitating membrane over their eyes (a clear eyelid), as well as openings in their ears and noses that close when beavers dive underwater.
- 9. Rubber Gloves** (put on student's hands) represent the beaver's front feet.
Adaptation: Beavers use their front feet to groom themselves, build dams, move trees, grip food, and dig in the mud.