

# Adapting to Major Environmental Changes



Spotted Eagle Ray



Bat Starfish



Freshwater Sawfish



Electric Eel



Leafy Seadragon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

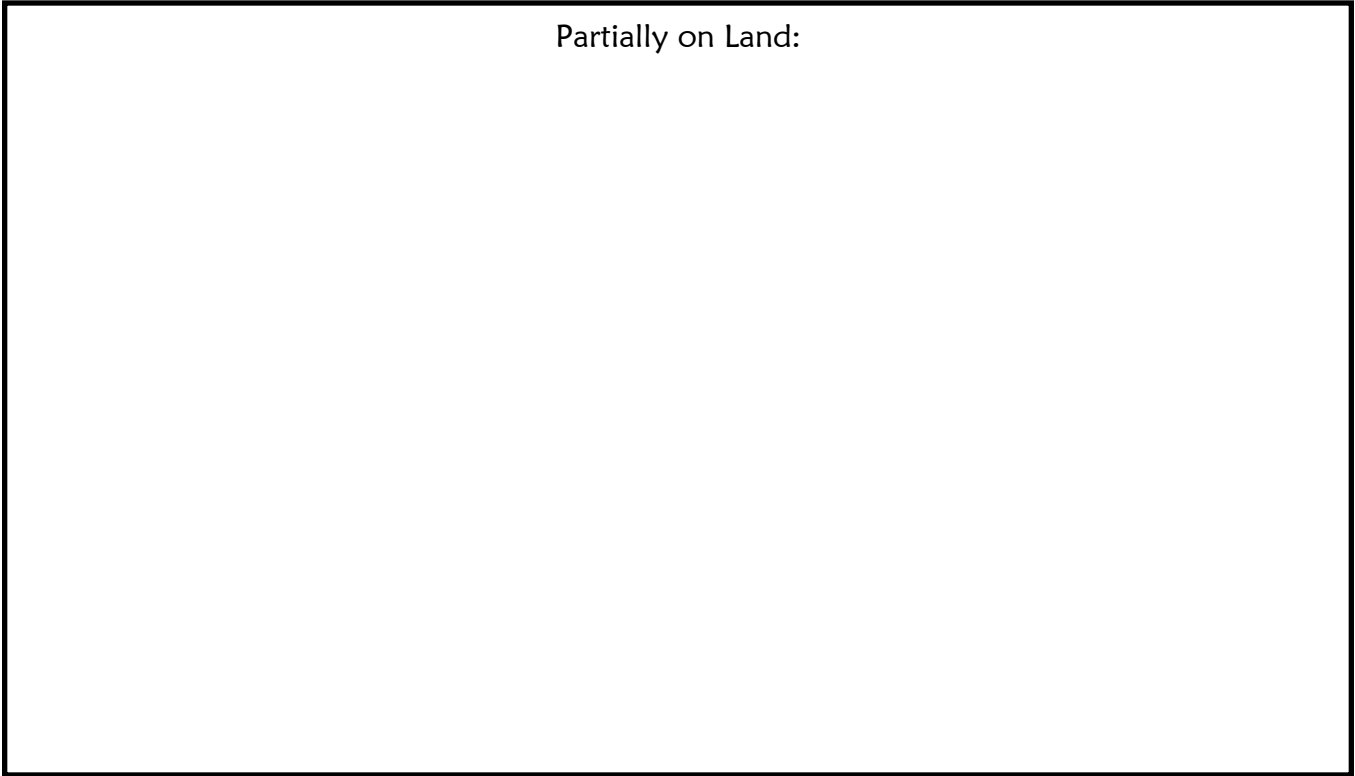
Animals must constantly evolve in changing conditions in order to survive. Changes to temperature, terrain, and food availability can significantly impact the ability of an animal to meet basic needs.

The animals pictured on the left are five aquatic animals found at the Dallas World Aquarium. Select one of the animals. Research how this animal evolved to survive where it lives. Fill out the chart below:

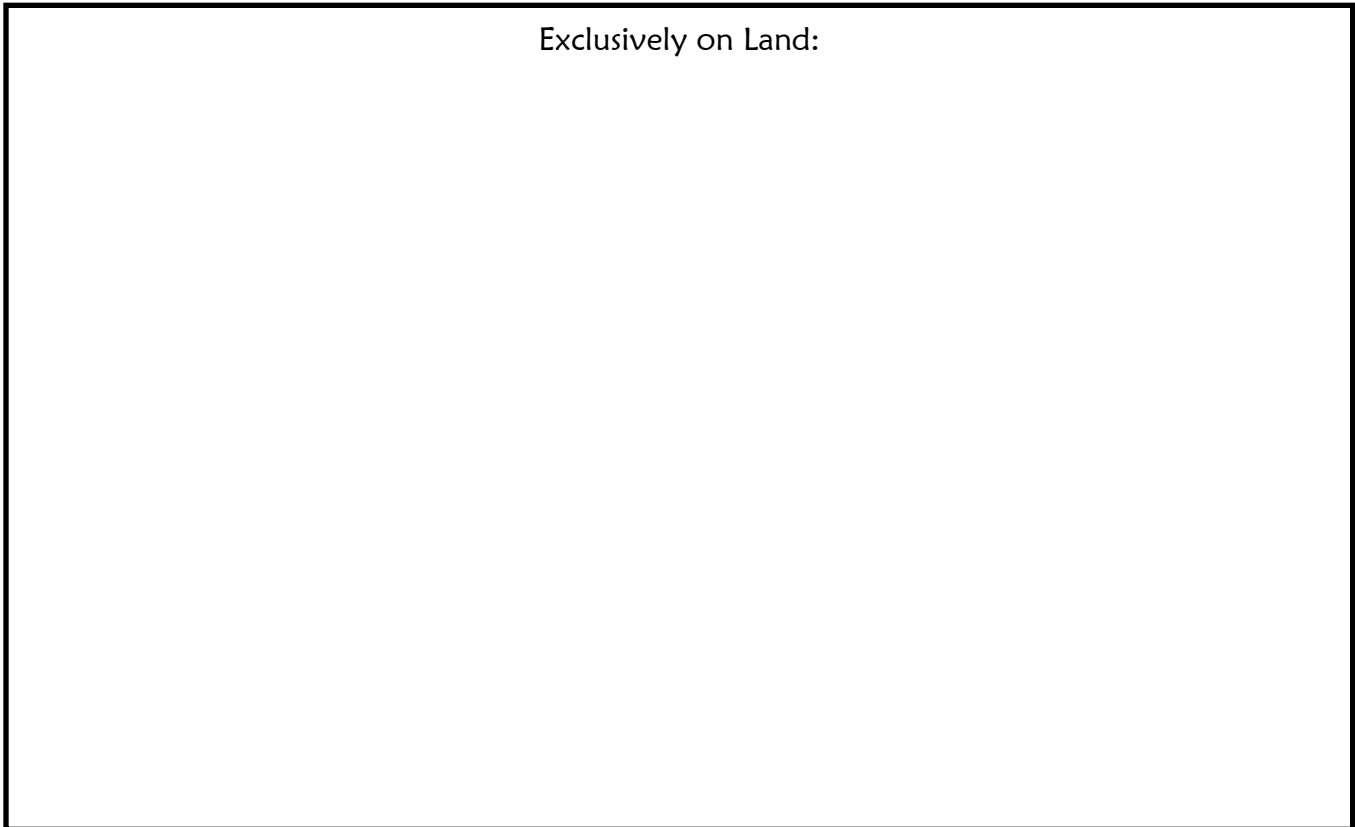
	How are these traits adapted for an exclusively AQUATIC environment?
Mouth	
Limbs	
Body Covering	
Senses	
Defense	

Now imagine that the aquatic environment in which your animal lives is becoming inhospitable. To survive, your animal must turn to the land. Think about how your animal might change over time when adapting to a terrestrial environment. Make two sketches. The first shows your animal as it appears when it starts to live partially on land. The second shows your animal as it appears when it lives entirely on land.

Partially on Land:



Exclusively on Land:



Next, fill out the chart describing your animal's adaptations once it lives exclusively on land:

	How are these traits adapted for an exclusively TERRESTRIAL environment?
Mouth	
Limbs	
Body Covering	
Senses	
Defense	

Answer the following critical thinking questions:

1.) Where does your animal live? Describe the climate and the type of environment in which your animal lives. \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What does your animal eat? How does it find food? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) Once it is terrestrial, what impact might your animal have on existing species and the ecosystem in which it lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How might sea level rise impact coastal species and ecosystems? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) How do natural disasters impact species and ecosystems? \_\_\_\_\_

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