



# 360 VIRTUAL TRIPS TO ALBERTA'S ECOREGIONS

## PLANT AND ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT [WWW.ALBERTATOMORROW.CA](http://WWW.ALBERTATOMORROW.CA)

### THE BASICS

**Time Required:** Approximately 2  
60 min periods

**Materials:** Computer with  
Internet Connection, Student  
Handout, Headphones (optional)

**Background Info:**

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/6256258/natural-regions-subregions-of-alberta-a-framework-for-albertas-parks-booklet.pdf>

You will find different species in the northern, central and southern portions of the Aspen Parkland since the animals in the surrounding regions (Boreal Forest, Foothills, and Grasslands) overlap with this region. In the northern aspen parkland, it is common to see snowshoe hares, northern flying squirrels and broad-wing hawks. In the central portion, you will find species like the prairie vole, Franklin's ground squirrel and prairie plover. To the south, there are Richardson's ground squirrels, plains spadefoot toads and Baird's sparrow.



### PROCEDURE:

STUDENTS MUST CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT  
[WWW.ALBERTATOMORROW.CA](http://WWW.ALBERTATOMORROW.CA) TO ACCESS THE 360 ECOREGION TOURS.

Animals that live in different parts of Alberta are specially adapted to be able to survive in that environment. That is, they have special traits that allow them to survive and thrive in that environment. For example, some animals change colour with the season to help them blend in or camouflage in their environment. The Snowshoe Hare changes from having white fur in the winter to having brown fur in the summer. Unfortunately for the hare, there is a time in the spring and fall that they may not be the right colour for their environment!

Alberta has 6 natural ecoregions. Some animals can be found in all 6 regions, but others are only suited for life in only one region. For example, the Short Horned Lizard is only found in the Grasslands in Alberta. It regulates its body temperature by moving into hot sunny areas or into the shade. It cannot survive in the cooler Boreal Forest.

In this lesson you will explore animals in all 6 ecoregions within Alberta and learn about how they are specially adapted to living there. In each ecoregion, you will look for the animal icon. 🐾 You may have to look around a bit, and maybe even up or down! You can zoom in and out to get a better look at the vegetation and features in each ecoregion. Remember to turn on the sound to get the full immersive experience. Have Fun!



### CURRICULUM LINKS:

**GR. 3 SCIENCE- ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES**

### OBJECTIVES:

- STUDENTS WILL IDENTIFY HOW ANIMALS ARE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN EACH NATURAL ECOREGION OF ALBERTA.

## ALBERTA'S ANIMALS AND HOW THEY ARE ADAPTED TO LIFE WHERE THEY LIVE

1. Register for an account at [www.albertatomorrow.ca](http://www.albertatomorrow.ca)
2. Log in and find the Camera Icon  on the Left Hand Side to see all 6 Ecoregion Virtual Tours
3. For each Ecoregion find the Animal Icon  to fill out the form.

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### EXTENSION:

1. Explore the other Icons within each Ecoregion:



2. Choose one Ecoregion and describe each of the following:

Location:

Landforms:

Climate:

Plants:

Animals:

Resources:

Did You Know?

Species at Risk:

3. Design and Draw a New Animal for the Ecoregion that would have at least 2 adaptations that allow it to survive in that ecoregion.

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

**Ecoregion Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Animal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Animal: (circle the answer) Drawing:**

Mammal

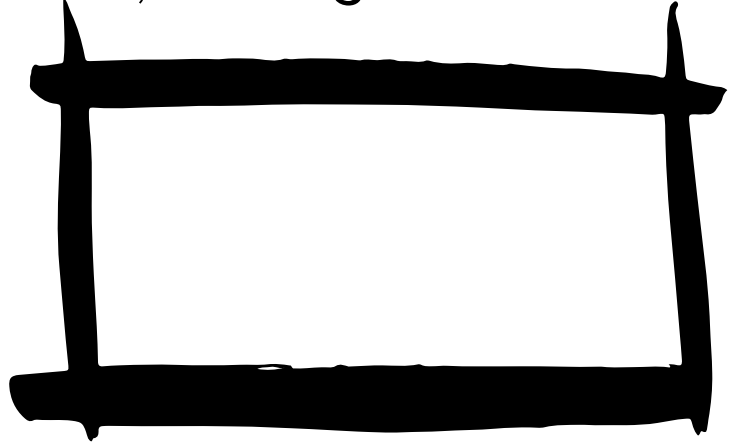
Bird

Fish

Amphibian

Reptile

Insect



**Physical Characteristics: (ie type of body covering, size, colour, shape, type of teeth, backbone?)**

**Level of Care from Parents: Low/ High**

**Is the baby similar to the adult? Yes/No**

**Adaptations to Living in its Environment:**

**Threats:**