

Adaptation in the Snowshoe Hare

Adaptation in a *population* of living things happens as a result of an *adaptive trait*. This is any *inheritable trait* that increases its survival rate so that it can live longer, reproduce longer, and have more offspring (that also have that trait). Adaptive traits can improve animals find food, make a safer home, escape predators, survive cold or heat or lack of water.

The **snowshoe hare** are well adapted for their life in the north. They have large, furry feet that act as snowshoes for traveling on top of the snow. Their fur is thick to protect them from freezing temperatures. It also turns white in winter so that they are almost invisible in a snowy background. This helps them hide from predators. These *physical adaptations* make it possible to survive in their harsh, northern climate.



They have fur that turns white in winter so that they are almost invisible in a snowy background.

Their large, furry feet act like snowshoes for traveling on top of the snow.

For Discussion and Critical Thinking:

The snowshoe hare has adaptive traits that helps it survive in deep now and freezing temperatures.

1. Name two of the snowshoe hare's adaptive traits and how they help them survive:

1. _____

2. _____

2. If the Arctic warms with climate change and the brown tundra is exposed, how will this affect the snowshoe

hare? _____

3. Name two other animals that live on the tundra and describe an adaptive traits that helps them survive.

1. _____

2. _____

4. Do you have any physical traits that help you survive? Discuss one.
