You have learned about animals by reading the article, “Who Wants a Spiny Snack?” and by exploring the *Life at the Limits* exhibition.

Now you will write a book to teach your friends about these animals.

Your book will include three animals. The first animal will be the spiny pufferfish. The other two animals will be from the *Life at the Limits* exhibition.

For each animal, name one body part that helps this animal. Then explain in your own words how this body part works. Include a drawing of each animal and label the body part that you have described.

Many animals have adaptations that help them survive and reproduce. Some of the most intriguing animals displayed at the *Life at the Limits* exhibit were the spiny pufferfish, the black swallower, and the hammerhead shark. These animals are so interesting because of their shocking adaptations. The spiny pufferfish, for example, can puff up to surprise its predators. You will definitely be amazed when you hear about these animal adaptations.

The spiny pufferfish has a fascinating adaptation, which is a trait that helps it survive and reproduce. If it feels threatened, it swells up like a balloon by swallowing a lot of water. Its stomach is usually crumpled into many tiny folds, so when the water rushes in, the stomach unfolds. On top of this wonderful adaptation, it has spines all over its body, which stick up in all directions when it puffs.
up. This adaptation helps it by surprising and scaring its predators. An animal that is similar to the spiny pufferfish is the porcupine. It has spikes on its body that hurt its predators.

Another very interesting animal is the black swallower. Although it is small, it can swallow fish four times its size whole! How does it do this? It swallows its prey head first, therefore suffocating it. Then, its stomach stretches out to hold the fish. This adaptation is important because it helps the black swallower survive in the deep depths of the ocean where there is very little food.

The hammerhead shark has a very unique adaptation. It can sense electrical fields emitted by its prey. This is because it has special organs. This helps the hammerhead shark survive and catch its prey. An animal that has a similar adaptation to the hammerhead shark is the sawfish. It has electro sensory pores that can detect electrical fields produced by its prey.

As you can see, adaptations are really important and necessary to every creature alive. The pufferfish, black swallower, and hammerhead shark have amazing adaptations that help them survive and reproduce. The Life at the Limits exhibit provided us with great information on these wonderful animals, as well as many others. It taught us how important adaptations are for living organisms.
Pufferfish
- Has sharp spines that keep its predators away
- Swallows water and puffs up

Black Swallower

Hammerhead shark
- The Hammerhead shark has special organs that can sense
- Stomach expands to hold the fish

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