

SCIENCEOXFORD



Science Oxford

Challenge

Creature Creations

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# Creature Creations

Create a creature new to science which is adapted to its environment

We have put together some ideas below to think about while you plan what your creature will look like. Once you've made your creature, you could display it in your window for everyone to admire using the Science Oxford Challenge frame that you can download and print.

*Age group: EYFS, KS1, KS2*

*What you will need: materials to build your creature (possible ideas below) or paper and pencils to draw your creature*

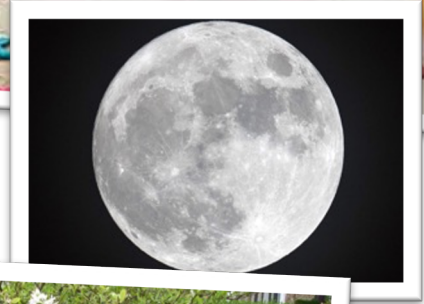
*Skills: creativity, patience, developing an understanding of adaptation, using descriptive language, reasoning and justification, links to real world science, verbal and social skills, fine motor skills, research, questioning*



# Where will your creature live?

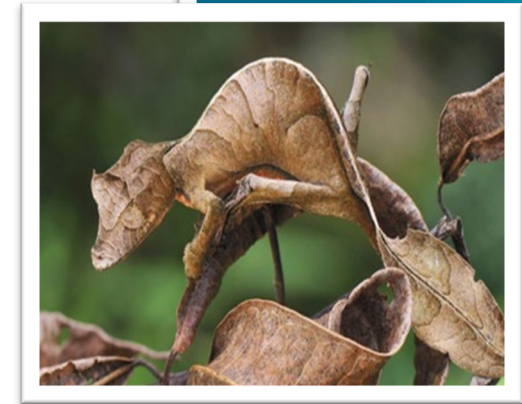
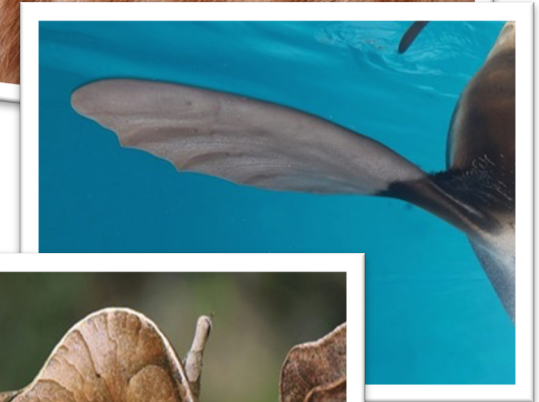
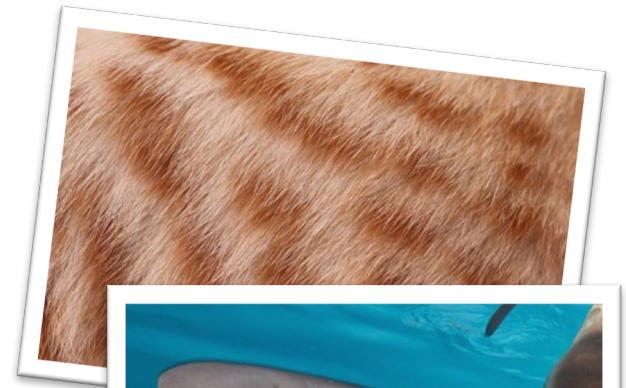
Before you can start thinking about the adaptations which help your creature to survive in its environment, you need to decide where your creature will live. You could choose an environment you know well, like your back garden, your local park, woodland or even your bedroom.

Or you could decide on a completely different environment such as a swamp, the Moon, the desert, or the rainforest. If you choose an unusual environment, make sure you can find out about it. To help you, you could use books, the internet or ask your family what they know.



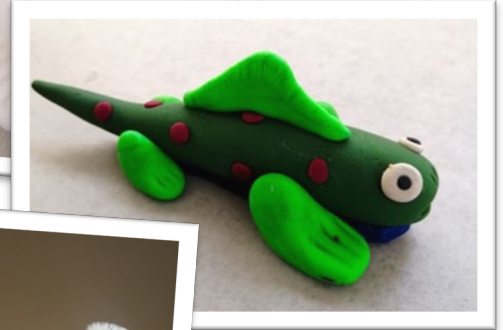
# What features will help it to survive?

Think about what your creature might need for a particular environment. If your creature lives on the cold Moon, it needs a way to keep itself warm. Perhaps it has thick fur or a layer of fat. If your creature lives in your bedroom, it needs to stay hidden so perhaps it is well camouflaged and can move quickly to escape detection. If your creature lives in a swamp it will be very wet so perhaps it would have waterproof skin or flippers to help it move through the water.



# What will your creature look like?

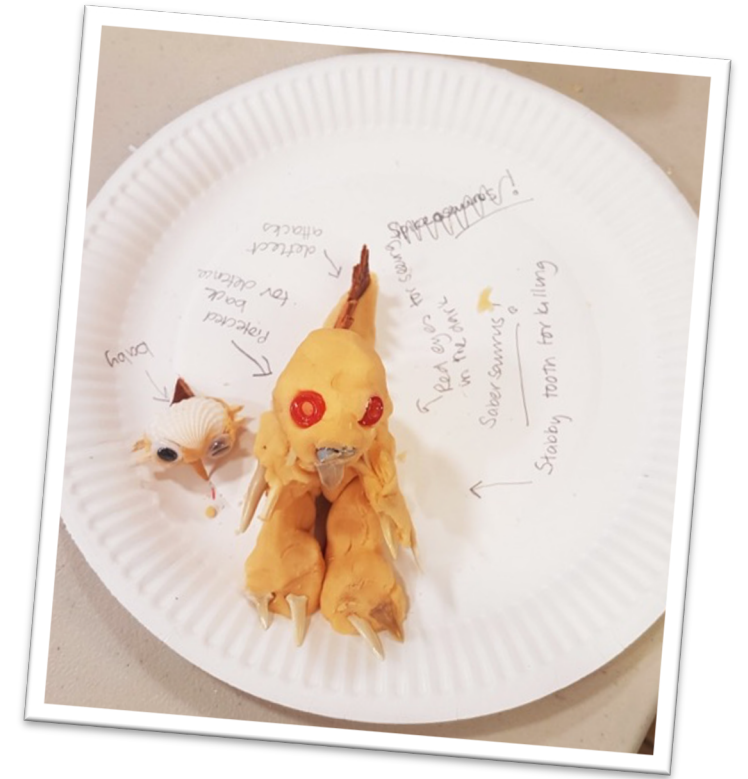
Once you have thought of some features your creature will have, it's time to start putting your creation together. You can use whatever materials you already have at home and could also collect natural materials from your garden to add to your creature. We have seen amazing creatures just made from plasticine, you could start with a ball of playdough or clay and add craft materials and natural objects or you could use store cupboard items like the 'Round-nosed Crumbsnorter' seen here. If you don't want to build a model of your creature, you could draw it instead. Don't forget to give your creature a name.



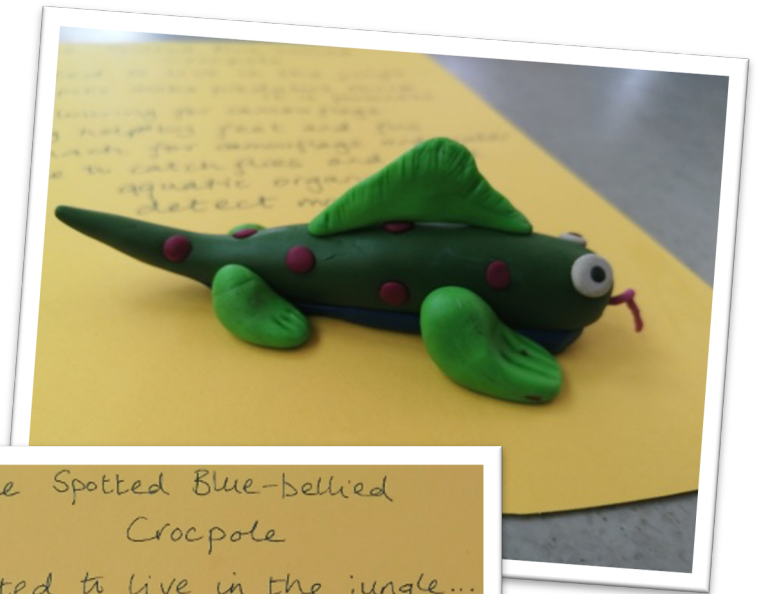
# Top tips for adults

This activity is a great way to encourage deep scientific thinking while taking part in a fun, hands on activity. Older children can do this activity independently, while younger children might need some extra help. To really develop thinking, you could consider asking your child some of the questions below:


- Where does your creature live?
- How does it move?
- What does it eat? Is it a carnivore or herbivore?
- Why is its mouth/ nose/ foot/ tail shaped like that?
- Is it nocturnal or diurnal?
- Does it make a noise? If so, when and why?
- Would I like to hold it?
- What does it feel like? Why?
- Does it have any natural enemies?
- How does it detect enemies?
- How does it protect itself?



Depending on the age of your child, you may want to encourage them to record their creature's adaptations. There are lots of different ways they could do this. Older children could write about their creature, as creatively as they would like.




This is the Spotted Blue-bellied Crocodile  
 It is adapted to live in the jungle...  
 .... purple spots make predators think it is poisonous  
 .... green colouring for camouflage  
 .... Swimming helped by feet and fins  
 .... blue stomach for camouflage underwater  
 .... long tongue to catch flies and small aquatic organisms  
 .... big eyes to detect movement

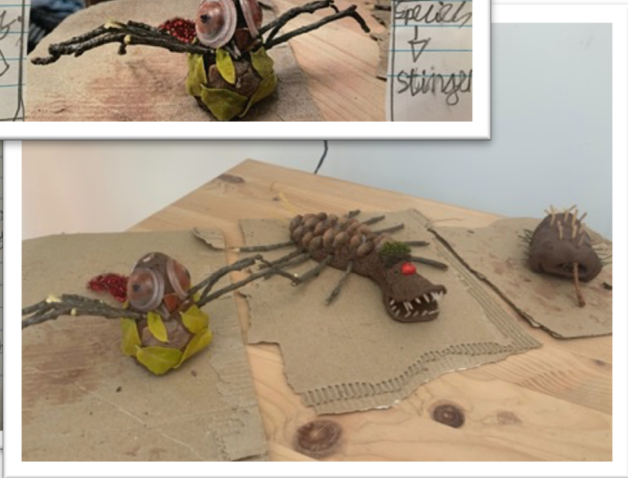


Name: Blind Pig Bear  
 Habitat: Cave  
 Size: 8cm Height: 5cm  
 Species: Spinners

Facts:  
 For this creature is blind, it has sensor (pine needles) and a pine stick to feel it's way around the caves. It eats small insects, and swallows them whole - it only has four teeth. The spines on it's back protect it from flying objects, bats and hanging snakes. And underneath it body a armor for that bites.



in the summer it's all day  
 science habitat  
 Yellow spider  
 small  
 spider  
 ↓  
 stinger



## The Round-nosed Crumbsnorter

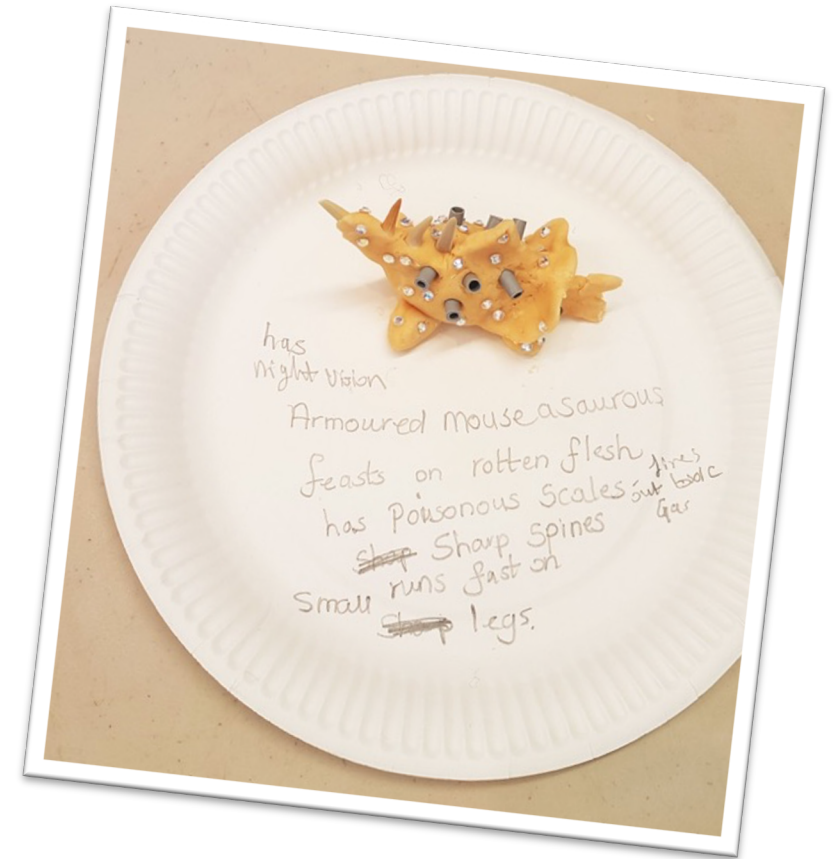
This creature's natural habitat is under the kitchen sink. It uses its large ears to listen out for disturbances and hide from its prey. As a nocturnal creature it sneaks out at night sweeping up crumbs and debris on the floor with its blue and yellow feet and sucks them up through its big snout. It has large eyes to see tiny scraps of food and can absorb liquids through its entire body and store it for long period to avoid dehydration while in hibernation or hiding!

Reported sightings seem to be getting rarer since March 2020 as food supplies are dwindling, for some unknown reason houses are suddenly immaculate and the humans seem to be cleaning at an alarming rate!





For younger children, just talking about their creature might be most appropriate. Alternatively, you could help them to add simple labels...



We hope you enjoyed our Science Oxford Creature Creations Challenge and we look forward to seeing your creatures displayed in windows around the county. Don't forget to download and print out our Challenge poster to frame your challenge in the window!

When you've made yours, email us a photo to [competition@scienceoxford.com](mailto:competition@scienceoxford.com) or post it on Twitter or Facebook and tag @scienceoxford. There's a prize of a family ticket for our Science Oxford Centre for the best entry - good luck!

*Thanks to Kat, Grace and Megan, Rowan and Lucy, and children from our Dino Creature Creation workshop 2019 for all their amazing creations!*



# Share your challenge with us...

Show us what you came up with on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and tag:

@scienceoxford #scienceoxfordchallenge #scienceathome

or email [competition@scienceoxford.com](mailto:competition@scienceoxford.com)

For more ideas visit [www.scienceoxford.com/resources](http://www.scienceoxford.com/resources)

Check out our other  
Science Oxford  
Challenges this spring  
and summer!

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