

Apt to Adapt

Canids live in almost every **biome** on the planet. A biome is a community of plants and animals that have adapted to a specific climate and environment. Some examples of biomes are the Arctic tundra, the desert, or different types of forest, such as the rainforest. An **adaptation** is anything that a plant or animal develops to help them better survive in their environment.

So how have different canids adapted to their biomes?

Some canids have really big ears, which not only help them to hunt, but also help them to stay cool. Blood vessels in the ears lie very close to the skin and the large surface area helps them radiate more heat from the body. Their ears also catch the wind, just like a sail on a ship, which can further cool them down and circulate cooler blood from the ears throughout the body.

In contrast, canids who live in the Arctic have much smaller ears than many of their canid relatives, because smaller ears help them to conserve heat in a frigid environment. Canids who live up north also tend to be fluffier, because they grow an extra layer of fur to keep them warm.

What Animals Roam These Biomes?

Write down an animal that lives in each biome and write down how you think they have adapted!

Biome	Animal	Adaptation
Arctic		
Rainforest		
Ocean		
Desert		