

Just like us, animals need food, water, shelter, and space. The place an animal meets all of its needs is called a **habitat**.

To help them meet their needs and survive in a habitat, animals have **adaptations**. There are two kinds of adaptations; body parts called **structures** and actions the animals do, called **behaviors**.

All **adaptations** have a **function**. A **function** is *how* the structure or behavior help the animal. For example, a giraffe's long neck is the **structure**, and the **function** is that it allows the giraffe to reach tall branches and eat the leaves high up.

Today, you are going to be figuring out how a North American river otter is adapted to survive in its habitat.

Directions:

1. First, watch the video of the North American river otters at the Roger Williams Park Zoo below! While you are watching see if you can figure out some of the **adaptations** the otters have to help them meet their needs and survive in their habitat.
2. Then, fill in the Adaptation Chart on the next page with what you noticed and draw a diagram of a North American river otter.
3. Next, tell why the North American river otter can survive well in its habitat.



[North American River](#)

Adaptation Chart

Animal I Observed: _____

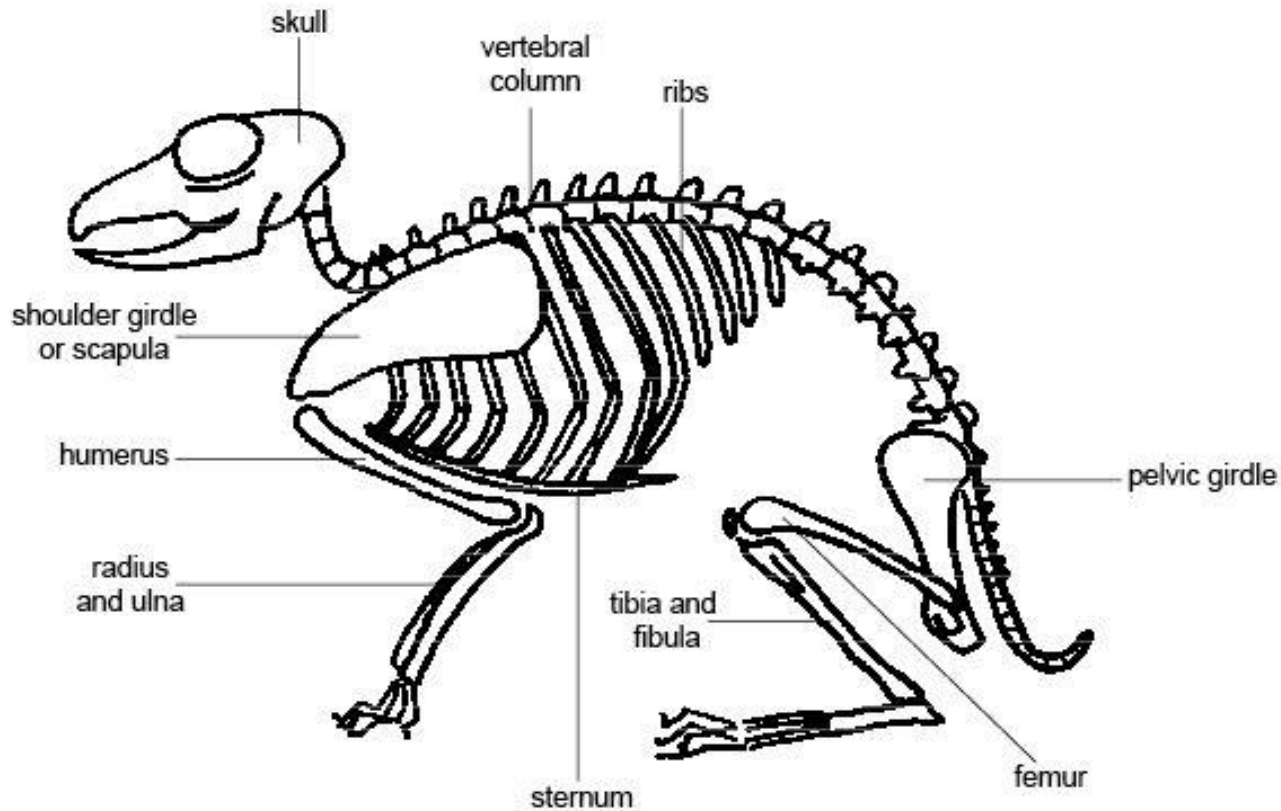
Habitat: _____

Adaptation	Function: How does the adaptation help the animal survive and meet its needs in its habitat?
Example: Long body	The long body helps the otter to swim quickly through the water.



Adaptation	Function: How does the adaptation help the animal survive and meet its needs in its habitat?

Draw a diagram of the animal you observed. Make sure to label the animal's adaptations. Remember a diagram is a picture with labels. Below is an example of a diagram. You can draw your diagram on the next page or in your science notebook.



Product of Roger Williams Park Zoo Education Department



North American River Otter Diagram

Product of Roger Williams Park Zoo Education Department



In the space below or in your science notebook, tell why you think that the North American river otter can survive well in its habitat. Use the video, your adaptation chart and your diagram to help you.

