Use this journal to explore plant adaptation at the Arboretum. Adaptation is the natural process by which an animal or plant becomes fitted to its surroundings, or environment.

Name: ______________________
Adaptation: Thick, waxy leaves

Thick leaves that feel like they are covered in wax or plastic allow plants to store water in their leaves and stems.

Helps plants absorb sunlight without needing too many leaves (leaves require a lot of water).

Desert Biome

Find plants with these adaptations!

Draw or write about what you find in the space below:
Observe the plants and animals in an area near you. Think about; is it sunny or shaded? Is it dry or damp? Design and draw an imaginary plant that you think could live here.

Adaptation: Thorns or Spines
- Keeps hungry animals from eating the plants.
- Provides some shade.

Adaptation: Fuzzy Leaves
- Fuzzy leaves protect plants from the sun, like sunscreen.
- The tiny white hairs reflect light.

Find plants with these adaptations! Draw or write about what you find in the space below:
Adaptation: Wide Leaf
Creates a large surface to collect sunlight needed for energy and growth.

Adaptation: Drip Tips
Keeps water from pooling on leaves and helps it drip to the soil and water roots.

Adaptation: Epiphyte
(plant growing on another plant) A way for smaller plants to get closer to the light in a crowded rainforest canopy.

Adaptation: Tall, Skinny Trunks
Rainforest trees often have long skinny trunks, so they can reach up to the canopy where there is more sun.

Find plants with these adaptations!
Draw or write about what you find in the space below: