A variety of activities to hook student interest in adaptations

Grades 3-5
Adaptations Game
From ASDM Desert Discovery Quest: Adaptations TIP
Students play a card game to match adaptations to plant and animals.

Grades 3-5
Animal vs. Human Olympics
From ASDM Desert Discovery Quest: Adaptations TIP
Students measure and compare their own abilities to animal abilities.

A variety of activities for students to explore plant and animal adaptations and using maps

Grades 3-5
Mapping the Museum
From ASDM Desert Discovery Quest: Adaptations TIP
Student investigation using ASDM visitor map to practice map skills.

Grades 3-5
Plant and Animal Adaptations
From CASES Curriculum Access System for Elementary Science – University of Michigan
http://cases.soe.umich.edu/plans.php?nav=showplan&dqid=50&lpid=3
Using everyday products, students design and carry out an investigation to help a desert organism conserve water.

Grades 4 (3-5) Survival in Extreme Environments
From Queensland Museum – Adaptations Teaching Unit
or
Using everyday products, students design and carry out an investigation of which animal will stay coolest in a hot environment (and which animal will stay warmest in a cold environment).

Grade 4 Adapting to Desert Living – Adaptionary
From Saguaro National Park
http://www.nps.gov/sagu/forteachers/lessonplansandteacherguides.htm
or
Students play a drawing and guessing game to learn how adaptations help plants and animals survive in the desert.
A variety of activities for students to apply quest concepts, and elaborate on plant and animal adaptations to the desert environment

ARIZONA ACADEMIC STANDARDS
SC03-S4C1-01
SC04-S4C1-02
SC03-S4C3-01,03&05
SC04-S4C3-01&03
SC03-S4C4-01&02
SC04-S4C4-01&02
SC03-S1C1-01
SC04-S1C1-03
SC05-S1C1-02
SC03-S1C2-01,03,04&05
SC04-S1C2-01,03,04&05
SC05-S1C2-01,03,04&05
SC03-S1C3-01&02
SC04-S1C3-05
SC05-S1C3-05
SC03-S1C4-01&03
SC04-S1C4-01&03
SC05-S1C4--01&03

VOCABULARY
Adaptation
Predator
Prey
Succulence
Drought
Aridity
Burrow

APPLICATION /ELABORATION

Grades 4 (3-5)
Digital Story Task
From Queensland Museum – Adaptations Teaching Unit
Learning+Resources/Resources
or
http://www.google.com/url?
sa=t&rct=j&q=adaptations%20lesson&source=web&cd=54&cad=rja&ved=0CD8QFjADODI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.qm.qld.gov.au%2FLearning%2BResources%2Fmedia%2FDocuments%2FLearning%2520resources%2FQM%2FResources%2FTeacher%2520and%2520student%2520resources%2Fadaptations-teaching-unit.pdf&ei=3lmZUKa1HMObiQKj9IG4BQ&usg=AFQjCNHXmiujLnCEYk0q7EidWKxu2QiMww

Students create and present digital storyboard presentations to review adaptations. This resource provides kid-friendly instructions, and applicable websites and worksheets that students can use as guidelines for creating a Sonoran Desert Adaptations digital story.

Grades 4 (3-5)
Hands-on Activity: Biomimicry: Natural Designs
From Teach Engineering Resources for K-12

Students learn about biomimicry and how engineers often imitate nature in the design of innovative new products. They demonstrate their knowledge of biomimicry by practicing brainstorming and designing a new product based on what they know about animals and nature.

Further Ideas

Grades 7 (6-8)
Hands-on Activity: Live like an Animal
From Teach Engineering Resources for K-12

Students design and present an innovative human shelter that is inspired and informed by an animal structure, explaining what attribute of the animal structure influenced their design.

Grades 3-5
Desert Adaptation Debates
Pair up students to debate which plants/animals have the best adaptations for storing or conserving water, avoiding heat etc.
Use http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp304-01.shtml for lesson plan information on staging a debate.

Grades 3-5
Desert Safari in the Classroom
Turn room into a desert landscape with students dressed as plants, animals and tour guides. Have other classes visit. Can use Virtual African Safari lesson plan as a basis. http://teachersnetwork.org/impactII/profiles03_04/horne.htm
Grades 3-4
**Beaks for What We Eat**
From ASDM Teacher Idea Packet for Hunters and Hunted program
Students gather a variety of “foods” with different tools that represent bird beaks.

Grades 3-4
**Sonoran Desert Predators and Prey**
From ASDM Teacher Idea Packet for Hunters and Hunted program
Students classify Sonoran Desert animals as predators, prey or both; and describe their adaptations for finding food and avoiding predators.

Grades 6 – HS (adaptable for Grade 5)
**Lesson 1: The Lion as a Predator - Are You as Agile as a Cat?**
From AZGF Focus Wild - Mountain Lions in Arizona
Students measure and compare their own abilities to mountain lion abilities to learn about the mountain lion’s adaptations as predator.

**More fun activities related to adaptations.**

**ARIZONA ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

SC03-S4C1-01
SC04-S4C1-01&02
SC03-S4C3-01,03&05
SC04-S4C3-01&03
SC03-S4C4-01&02
SC04-S4C4-01&02

**VOCABULARY**

Adaptation
Predator
Prey
Ectothermic