

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
THIRD GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Whale Blubber Adaptation

**Theme:** Life Science

**Unit Number:** 7      **Unit Title:** Habitats of Georgia

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):**

S3L1c

S3CS1a,b

S3CS8a,b

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Trait, Survive, Habitat, Adaptation

The adaptations animals living in cold water have, like seals, whales, polar bears, and some dolphins.

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** Crisco is used to model animal blubber, and the effects of blubber in cold water are observed.

**Details:** Prior to the experiment, fill a bucket half-way with ice and add enough water for the kids to submerge their hands. Then fill 2-3 baggies with crisco. There should be enough to thickly coat the inside of the bag. Start with a discussion of animal adaptations, ask what adaptations they already know, and ask "Are the adaptations of animals affected by their habitat?" Assign the class some work to do dealing with animal adaptations and have someone supervise them. I assigned them the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 pages in their work books. Then call children back 2 or 3 at a time and have each child put on 2 gloves. Then make them put one gloved hand into a baggie of "blubber." Have each child put both hands into the ice water and describe how it feels and what they observe. After they have noted that the blubber hand is warmer, remove the baggie of blubber from the child's hand and try to conserve as much blubber as possible. Then have the child discard the gloves and go wash their hands thoroughly before returning to their seat to finish their work. Finish the lesson by a drawing a tally chart on the board to determine which hand felt warmer. The close the lesson by discussing the importance of blubber in arctic animals because of their cold habitat. Also discuss how would those animals adaptations be different if they lived somewhere hot instead.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

**1 bucket**

**1 bag of ice (and water)**

**crisco**

**gloves- 2 per child**

**2-3 baggie**

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**Make sure you have someone who can focus the rest of the class supervise the others. Make sure you have enough planned for that group to work on. You will get messy... to avoid the kids getting too dirty tell them to roll up sleeves before the put gloves on.**

**Sources/References:**

**1) Harcourt Science Publishers Science Book Grade 3 2009**

**2) Harcourt Science Publishers Workbook Grade 3 2009**

**3)**