Adaptation Exploration with Nova

Learning objective: To identify and explain how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways.

Use this scaffold to help you write a scientific report about an animal or plant of your choice. Use the prompts below to structure your paragraphs and remember to use scientific vocabulary.

Nova the barn owl is perfectly adapted to hunt at night, with silent feathers and incredible hearing that allow her to thrive in her woodland habitat.

Word bank: environment · adaptation · characteristic · survival · specialised · predator · prey · habitat · consequently · furthermore · in addition to · therefore

1. Introduction: Name your chosen creature and describe the environment where it lives. Start with: 'The [creature] is well-suited to its home in the [habitat] because...' (2 marks)

2. Physical Adaptations: Explain two physical features that help the creature survive. Start with: 'One physical adaptation is [feature], which allows the animal to...' (3 marks)

3. Behavioural Adaptations: Describe how the creature acts to survive. Start with: 'In terms of behaviour, the [creature] often [action] in order to...' (3 marks)

4. Survival and Feeding: How does this creature find food or avoid danger? Start with: 'To successfully survive in this environment, it must...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why these adaptations are important for the species. Start with: 'In conclusion, without these specific adaptations, the [creature] would find it difficult to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine your creature was moved to a completely different habitat (e.g., a desert animal moving to the Arctic). Write a short paragraph explaining which one of its current adaptations would become a disadvantage and why.