

Karen Yarnall

Synopsis: Getting STEAMED Up About Animal Adaptations

After an introduction to organisms, biomes, adaptations and aquatic environments with emphasis on the Inland Bay ecosystem, students will research adaptations in animals and learn about art illustration. They will use their research and creativity to create their own “new and improved” (as in better able to adapt and ultimately survive) animals in colored pencil, watercolors, acrylic paint, pastels, ink/pen, or mixed media. This unit can be used in any class at any grade level where animal adaptations will be studied and creativity is valued. Since there is a natural connection between the arts and science, technology and math, this unit will add the A (for the arts) to STEM, making it STEAM driven. Upon completion, the artwork, along with each student’s written/typed explanation of the behavioral, morphological and physiological adaptations, will be displayed in an art exhibit.