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Day 21 Apr 09 Intern: Animal biological adaptations to thermal environment

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21.0.H Question Bank April 9 Animal Adaptations

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Habitat and behavior

- Are there other examples of species living in close proximity, like the two species of squirrels in the Mohave Desert?

Snail clustering

- Would solitary snails die? If so, why don't they move to an aggregation?
- Do they do this because they are slow moving organisms?
- Does the water play a role in the snail's temperature regulation?
- Do snails separate in hot climates?

Color adaptation

- Do chameleons use their color change ability to regulate temperature or just to hide?
- How does the crab know when to change colors (thermoreceptors?)

Physiology and structure

- How does a counter-current system help heating/cooling?
- Do animals in warmer climates have larger nostrils?
- Does body size play a role in body temperature regulation?
- Are layers of blubber similar to adding clothing to keep warm or refractory layers?
- Is the constriction/dilation of blood vessels voluntary?
- How do organisms lower their temperature when they go into hibernation? Is it an instinct?
- Why do infants have the connective tissue that hibernating animals have?