



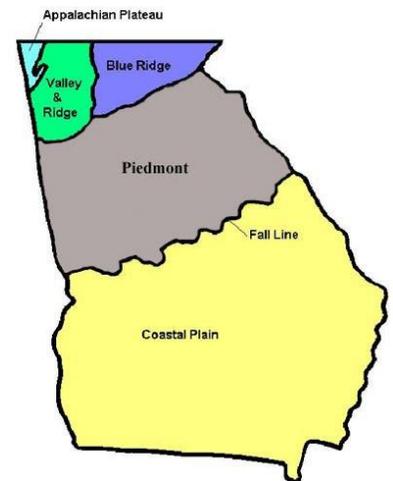
## 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Animal Adaptations within Georgia Regions

### Teacher Guide

**Goal:** Students will be able to make connections between animal habitats and animal adaptations within the regions of Georgia.

**GSE Connections:** S3L1B: Construct an explanation of how external features and adaptations (camouflage, hibernation, migration, mimicry) of animals allow them to survive in their habitat.

**Background Information:** From the mountains to the ocean, the state of Georgia is defined by unique landscapes and topography and a diversity of wildlife. There are five main regions in Georgia with plants and animals that are adapted to live in each of the regions. Each region is further defined by distinct characteristics and habitats. The Blue Ridge Mountains are home to Georgia's highest mountains and have high plant and animal biodiversity. The Piedmont region encompasses one-third of the state, bridging the mountains with the coastal plain. The Coastal Plain is made up of barrier islands, beaches and wetlands. The Valley and Ridge region is known for its mountains and fast-moving streams. The Appalachian Plateau is the smallest region of Georgia and is characterized by steep, forested hills. Some animals may only be found in one region, while others may be able to live in multiple regions. Regardless, all have specialized adaptations that allow them to survive and thrive.



#### Vocabulary:

**Habitat** - the physical characteristics (internal and external) and behaviors that animals have in order to survive

**Adaptation** – the natural home or environment around an organism

**Activity:** Spend a few minutes reviewing the five regions of Georgia with your students. Discuss different characteristics of each region. Ask students to think about animals that live in each of the regions and what makes those animals well suited to live there. Revisit the term *adaptation*. Hand out Student Explore Sheets and explain to the students that they will visit Georgia eXtremes at Scaly Slimy Spectacular to make observations of Georgia reptiles and amphibians regarding their adaptations and external features. Using the information that they gather about each animal, students can predict what region(s) they think the reptile and/or amphibian lives in.

**Species:** Green Tree Frog



**Adaptations/External Features:** Lives near wetlands; colors vary from bright yellow to lime green; webbed toes

**Region of GA:** Found in all five regions of GA



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## Student Explore Sheet

### Student Review:

Use the map in Georgia eXtremes to identify the five Georgia regions and list their characteristics.

Georgia Region	Characteristics

Visit Georgia eXtremes in Scaly Slimy Spectacular and draw 4 reptiles or amphibians that live in Georgia. Explain their adaptations/external features. Based on what you learn, what region(s) do you think they live in?

Species:	Species:
Adaptations/External Features:	Adaptations/External Features:
Region(s) of GA:	Region(s) of GA:
Species:	Species:
Adaptations/External Features:	Adaptations/External Features:
Region(s) of GA:	Region(s) of GA: