

Amazing Ambulation Adaptations

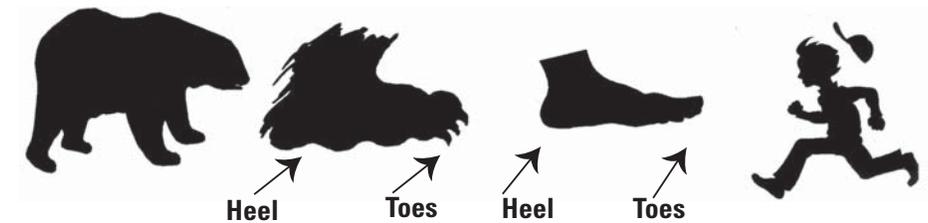
Vocabulary

Digits -
fingers and toes

Plantigrade -
walking on the soles of the feet. Humans and bears, for example, walk on the soles of the feet.

Digitigrade -
walking on the toes. Members of the dog and cat families walk on their toes. Animals like horses with hard hooves walk on "hardened" toes.

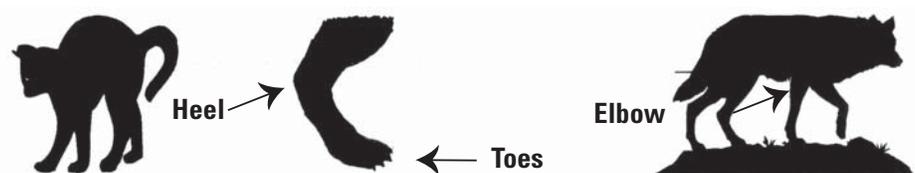
Plantigrade



Think About It ~ Talk About It (Answers on next page!)

What are the advantages of walking on the soles of the feet with heels and toes in contact with the ground?

Digitigrade



Think About It ~ Talk About It (Answers on next page!)

What are the advantages of walking on the toes with the heels elevated off the ground?

Do Some Observations!

Bring in some pictures of large dogs. Find some pictures of RED WOLVES. Which of the two canids has longer legs in comparison to its body size? Which has a narrower chest? What advantages do long legs and a narrow chest give a canid?

Did you know? The elbows of wolves turn in. The elbows of most domestic dogs turn out. What advantage do inward-turning elbows give the wolf?

The human hand has an opposable thumb.



What does this make humans able to do? The canid paw has a fifth digit, but not an opposable thumb.

