

OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

# Suri and Huacaya Features

Fill in the blank spaces below:

1. There are two breeds of \_\_\_\_\_.

They are called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



Observe the two pictures above and answer the following questions.

2. Describe the structural features that all alpacas have in common:

a) Head: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Ears: \_\_\_\_\_

d) Neck: \_\_\_\_\_

e) Body covering: \_\_\_\_\_

f) Legs: \_\_\_\_\_

g) Feet: \_\_\_\_\_

h) Tail: \_\_\_\_\_

i) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## LITERACY ACTIVITY

# Suri and Huacaya Fleece

There are two distinct breeds of alpaca – **huacaya** and **suri**. The key difference between them is observed in their fleece characteristics.

Read the information below and cut out the two pictures of alpaca fleece or fibre and match each picture with the breed of alpaca it corresponds to.

- 1. Huacaya**, (pronounced *wua'ki'ya*), is the most common alpaca breed in South America and Australia. Huacayas have a thick fleece that grows outwards from the body with a crimp.

Label the crimp on the picture.

- 2.** The less common breed is the **suri**, (pronounced *soo'ree*), and in Australia, only a small percentage of alpacas are suri. They have lustrous, silky fleece prized by processors. The fleece hangs in locks from a centre part and has a lustre and a more slippery and silky feel than the huacaya. The predominant suri colours are white or light fawn.



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LITERACY ACTIVITY

# Adaptations

**Adaptations are the heritable characteristics living things have that help them survive and reproduce in their environment.**

The growth and survival of living things are affected by the environment. Think about how these adaptations are helpful to these living things.

## Structural adaptation



1. Giraffes have long necks to reach leaves on trees.

Record your definition of **structural adaptation**:

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## Behavioural adaptation



2. Penguins huddle together in winter to conserve energy and stay warm.

Record your definition of **behavioural adaptation**:

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# Adaptations (cont.)

Alpacas have structural and behavioural adaptations that help them survive and reproduce in the places where they live. Alpacas live in temperate climates with moderate rainfall spread across the year, occasional drought, mild to warm summers and cool to cold winters.

In Australia, the decision to farm a particular type of animal (such as alpacas, pigs or goats, for example) is centred around ensuring that the animal breed is suited to the farm's environment. A producer considers the climate (rainfall, temperature, wind, etc.) and whether the animal breed has adaptations that will enable it to survive and be productive. The producer will also look at other factors to decide if they wish to farm a particular animal. Alpacas are suited to temperate areas in all states of Australia.

List the alpacas' structural and behavioural adaptations for living in a temperate climate. State the feature and describe how the feature benefits the alpaca in its environment.

## Structural adaptations

1. Feature: \_\_\_\_\_ .

How the feature benefits the alpaca in its environment:

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2. Feature: \_\_\_\_\_ .

How the feature benefits the alpaca in its environment:

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LITERACY ACTIVITY

# Adaptations (cont.)

## Behavioural adaptations

1. Behaviour: \_\_\_\_\_ .

How the behaviour benefits the alpaca in its environment:

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2. Behaviour: \_\_\_\_\_ .

How the behaviour benefits the alpaca in its environment:

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MODELLING ACTIVITY

# Building a Model Alpaca Datasheet

Collect the following materials:

## Option 1

- Multiple pieces of butchers paper
- Sticky tape
- Marker pens, lead pencil
- Meter rulers/ tape measure

## Option 2

- Cement/asphalt area
- Chalk
- Lead pencil
- Meter rulers/ tape measure

### Activity instructions:

1. Your teacher will nominate an alpaca to your group. All alpacas are huacayas. Underline or highlight your group's alpaca's name on the table.
2. Use the data in the table to study the dimensions of your animal.
3. Draw a plan of the alpaca your group will draw on the graph paper below the table. Include the measurements in your plan.
4. In an appropriate concreted area or on butchers paper, use a ruler to roughly mark the dimensions of your animal.
5. With your group, draw an outline of your alpaca and use your plan and the data to model the shape and any features you notice about the animal. Label your diagram with its name, sex and age.
6. Recall the structural features and adaptations that alpacas have and allow each group member to label a feature (e.g. short tail) and record one adaptation that makes an alpaca suited to its environment inside the body of the alpaca diagram.
7. Take a photo of your animal (if you have drawn it on cement) or hang your butchers paper on display.
8. Take a gallery walk around the models of the other groups to observe and compare the similarities and differences in size and shape, and other information for each alpaca.

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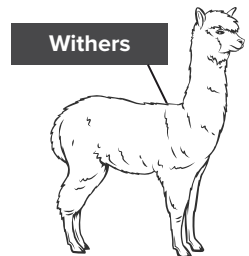
MODELLING ACTIVITY

# Building a Model Alpaca Datasheet (cont.)

Data for model alpacas:

Alpaca name	Sex	Age (years)	Length from head to foot (cm)	Length of leg (cm)	Length from wither* to tail (cm)
Peter	Male	3	133	78	84
Gunner	Male	3	119	77	77
Timmy	Male	0.5	115	70	69
Molly	Female	0.5	102	61	57

\*Note: The wither is at the top of the shoulders of the front legs.



Huacaya alpacas:



A young alpaca is a **weaner** from 6 to 12 months old.



An adult female is a **hembra** from 12–18 months onwards and an adult male is a **macho** from the age of 24 months (2 years old).

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