

Why do moose have webbed toes?

In biology class, the topic of discussion is “adaptation to habitats.” Together with his friends Mark and Jonas, Sven is supposed to work out the particular ways that moose have adapted to life in the northern regions of Europe and Asia.

They have already found out a couple of facts. The moose’s thick coat of hair protects them from cold temperatures, and the layer of fat they build up in the summer protects them from starvation in the harsh winter months.



Photo: Kate Banish/USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

But there is another characteristic that initially the three students couldn’t figure out: Moose are the only deer species that have webbing between their main toes.

“We simply have to reread the information sheet that we got at school,” says Jonas.

“If you think so, then let’s read it again,” Sven says with a sigh.

The habitat of moose

Moose are found in northern Europe, especially in Scandinavian countries. They live in the marshy areas of the Nordic deciduous forests, where they find their preferred food: young shoots of deciduous trees and shrubs as well as aquatic plants. Moose browse very intensively during the summer months to build up a layer of fat that they can live off of during the winter months when food is scarce. Their thick coat of hair protects them against extremely cold temperatures.

Your task

Find out why webbed toes represent an adaptation by moose to their habitat. Use the text about the moose habitat that the three friends also received. At the end, give reasons for your thoughts.

If you want to **use the online hints to solve the task**, scan the QR code with the **H**.



You can try to solve the task without using the provided hints.

When you are finished, compare your result with the sample solution. To do so, scan the QR code with the **S**.

