Behavioral Adaptations

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **behavioural adaptation** is something an animal **does** to survive, like **migrating**, **hibernating** or living in groups.

Body or behaviour? If you can see it on the animal, it's a body part. If the animal does it, it's a behaviour.

Survival Behaviours



Some adaptations are body parts, like claws or fur. Others are **behaviours**, things an animal **does** to survive. These are called **behavioural adaptations**.

Migration is when animals travel to a new place each season. Canada geese fly south in fall to find food and warmer weather, then return in spring.

Hibernation is a deep, long sleep through winter. Groundhogs and some bats hibernate. Their hearts slow down and they use very little energy until spring.

Other animals live in groups for safety. Musk oxen form a circle around their young when wolves come near. Some animals, like opossums, play dead to fool predators.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a behavioural adaptation?

(a) Something an animal does to survive (b) A body part (c) A kind of food

2. Why do Canada geese fly south in fall?

(a) To find food and warmer weather (b) To visit friends (c) To lay eggs in snow

3. What happens when an animal hibernates?

(a) It runs very fast. (b) It sleeps deeply all winter. (c) It changes colour.

4. Why do musk oxen form a circle?

(a) To keep warm (b) To play a game (c) To protect their young

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2. Behaviour or body part?

Circle the kind of adaptation.

1	geese flying south for winter	behaviour	body part
2	a beaver's flat tail	behaviour	body part
3	a groundhog hibernating	behaviour	body part
4	a porcupine's quills	behaviour	body part
5	an opossum playing dead	behaviour	body part
6	an owl's sharp eyesight	behaviour	body part

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Why might hibernating help an animal survive winter?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is a behavioural adaptation?

a Something an animal does to survive b A body part c A kind of food

2. Why do Canada geese fly south in fall?

a To find food and warmer weather b To visit friends c To lay eggs in snow

3. What happens when an animal hibernates?

a It runs very fast. **b It sleeps deeply all winter.** c It changes colour.

4. Why do musk oxen form a circle?

a To keep warm b To play a game **c To protect their young**

2. Behaviour or body part?

1	geese flying south for winter	**behaviour**	body part
2	a beaver's flat tail	behaviour	**body part**
3	a groundhog hibernating	**behaviour**	body part
4	a porcupine's quills	behaviour	**body part**
5	an opossum playing dead	**behaviour**	body part
6	an owl's sharp eyesight	behaviour	**body part**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Why might hibernating help an animal survive winter?**
   Food is hard to find in winter, and hibernating saves energy so the animal doesn't need to eat.