Hunters and the Hunted

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

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In nature, many animals must find food while staying safe from other animals that want to eat them. An animal that hunts other animals is called a predator. An animal that is hunted is called prey.

Predators have special tools for hunting. Owls can see well in the dark, and their soft feathers let them fly almost silently. Foxes have sharp hearing and can even hear mice moving under the snow. Hawks have eyes so sharp that they can spot a mouse from high in the sky.

Prey animals have ways to stay safe too. Rabbits have eyes on the sides of their heads, so they can watch for danger in almost every direction. Many mice are brown or grey, which helps them blend in with dirt and leaves. Deer can run quickly and leap over fences.

Some animals are both predator and prey. A frog eats insects, so it is a predator. But a snake might eat the frog, so the frog is also prey.

Predators and prey are both important. If predators disappeared, there could be too many rabbits and mice, and they would eat all the plants. Each animal plays a part in keeping nature in balance.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a predator?

(a) An animal that is hunted
(b) An animal that hunts other animals
(c) A plant

2. How do owls hunt in the dark?

(a) They see well in the dark and fly quietly.
(b) They use flashlights.
(c) They only hunt in the day.

3. Why are rabbits' eyes on the sides of their heads?

(a) To see danger in almost every direction
(b) To see colours
(c) To sleep better

4. Which animal is both predator and prey?

(a) A frog
(b) A plant
(c) A rock

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **What is the difference between a predator and prey?**

2. **How does being brown or grey help a mouse?**

3. **What could happen if all the predators disappeared?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is a predator?

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- **b. An animal that hunts other animals**
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2. How do owls hunt in the dark?

- **a. They see well in the dark and fly quietly.**
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3. Why are rabbits' eyes on the sides of their heads?

- **a. To see danger in almost every direction**
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4. Which animal is both predator and prey?

- **a. A frog**
- b. A plant
- c. A rock

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **What is the difference between a predator and prey?**
   A predator hunts other animals for food. Prey is the animal that gets hunted.
2. **How does being brown or grey help a mouse?**
   It helps the mouse blend in with dirt and leaves so predators cannot see it.
3. **What could happen if all the predators disappeared?**
   There could be too many rabbits and mice, and they might eat all the plants.