

Survival Side by Side

Compare how living things survive in different environments.

SC.5.L.17.1 "Compare and contrast adaptations displayed by animals and plants that enable them to survive in different environments such as life cycles variations, animal behaviors and physical characteristics."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline animal adaptations and circle plant adaptations. Write B beside a behavior, P beside a physical characteristic, or L beside a life-cycle change.

Ways to Survive

- ① On a hot desert day, a desert tortoise rests in a burrow instead of walking in the sun. This behavior helps it avoid losing too much water. Its thick, scaly skin also slows water loss. Nearby, a cactus has a waxy outer coat that holds moisture inside. Its wide-spreading roots quickly take in rainwater near the surface.
- ② In a pond, a frog begins life as an egg and then becomes a tadpole with gills for breathing underwater. Later, it grows legs and lungs and can live on land near the pond. A water lily stays rooted in mud throughout its life. Its broad leaves float on the surface, where they collect sunlight while its roots take in nutrients.
- ③ When autumn brings cold weather, some birds migrate to warmer places where food is easier to find. Migration is a behavior, not a body part. A maple tree cannot move, so it drops its leaves before winter. Losing leaves reduces water loss when the ground is frozen. Animals and plants may use different adaptations, but each adaptation helps the organism survive its environment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do the desert tortoise and cactus use different adaptations to deal with little water?

2 Compare the frog's life cycle with the water lily's life pattern.

3 How are bird migration and maple leaf drop alike and different?

4 Compare the tortoise's thick skin and the water lily's broad leaves. How does each physical characteristic help in its setting?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an environment that is not described in the passage. Write exactly 3 sentences that name one animal and one plant there, describe one adaptation for each, and compare how the adaptations help them survive.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline animal adaptations and circle plant adaptations. Write B beside a behavior, P beside a physical characteristic, or L beside a life-cycle change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the desert tortoise and cactus use different adaptations to deal with little water?	The tortoise rests in a burrow and has thick, scaly skin to reduce water loss. The cactus has a waxy coat to hold moisture and wide roots to quickly absorb rainwater.
2	Compare the frog's life cycle with the water lily's life pattern.	A frog changes from an egg to a tadpole with gills, then to an adult with legs and lungs. A water lily stays rooted in mud throughout its life.
3	How are bird migration and maple leaf drop alike and different?	Both help living things survive cold weather. Birds move to warmer places to find food, while maple trees drop leaves to reduce water loss because they cannot move.
4	Compare the tortoise's thick skin and the water lily's broad leaves. How does each physical characteristic help in its setting?	The tortoise's thick skin slows water loss in the dry desert. The water lily's broad leaves float at the pond surface and collect sunlight.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a snowy forest, a snowshoe hare grows a white winter coat that helps it hide from predators. A spruce tree has needle-like leaves with a waxy coating that reduce water loss in cold, dry air. Both adaptations help survival in winter, but the hare's coat provides camouflage while the spruce's needles conserve water.

Accept accurate comparisons that use evidence from the passage and clearly identify whether an adaptation is a behavior, physical characteristic, or life-cycle change. For the open response, accept any accurate animal and plant adaptations from an environment not named in the passage.