

Survival Secrets

Read how animal adaptations support survival in different habitats.

S3L1.b "Construct an explanation of how external features and adaptations (camouflage, hibernation, migration, mimicry) of animals allow them to survive in their habitat."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each adaptation, and circle the words that tell how it helps an animal survive.

Ways Animals Stay Alive

- ① Animals have body parts and behaviors that help them live where they are. On a snowy forest floor, a snowshoe hare grows white fur in winter. The fur blends with snow, so hungry predators may not notice the hare. In summer, its fur turns brown. This camouflage helps the hare hide among soil, rocks, and plants.
- ② Farther north, a wood frog survives winter by hibernating under leaf litter. Its body becomes very still, and it uses much less energy. Hibernation helps the frog live through cold days when insects are hard to find. When spring warms the ground, the frog becomes active again. It can then hunt and find a pond for breeding.
- ③ Each fall, monarch butterflies migrate to warmer places with more safe weather and food. Traveling lets them avoid freezing temperatures that could kill them. A scarlet king snake uses mimicry in its habitat. Its red, black, and yellow bands look like the bands of a venomous coral snake. Some predators may stay away, which can help the harmless king snake survive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the snowshoe hare's fur color help it survive in its habitat?

2 How does hibernation help the wood frog survive winter?

3 Why do monarch butterflies migrate each fall? Explain how this helps them survive.

4 How does the scarlet king snake's mimicry help it survive?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an animal not named in the passage. Write 2 sentences that name its habitat and explain how one external feature or adaptation helps it survive there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each adaptation, and circle the words that tell how it helps an animal survive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the snowshoe hare's fur color help it survive in its habitat?	Its fur blends with snow in winter and with soil, rocks, and plants in summer, helping it hide from predators.
2	How does hibernation help the wood frog survive winter?	The frog becomes still and uses less energy when cold weather makes insects hard to find.
3	Why do monarch butterflies migrate each fall? Explain how this helps them survive.	They travel to warmer places with safer weather and food, avoiding freezing temperatures that could kill them.
4	How does the scarlet king snake's mimicry help it survive?	Its bands look like those of a venomous coral snake, so some predators may stay away.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Arctic tundra, an arctic fox has thick white fur in winter. Its fur keeps it warm and blends with snow, so it can hide from predators and sneak up on prey.

Accept explanations that correctly connect an animal feature or adaptation to a survival benefit in its habitat. For the open response, accept accurate examples beyond camouflage, hibernation, migration, and mimicry when the survival connection is clear.