

Born or Taught?

Compare animal behaviors by looking for experience and practice.

S5L2.a "Ask questions to compare and contrast instincts and learned behaviors."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts that show a behavior happens without practice. Circle facts that show a behavior needs experience or practice, then write 1 beside a sentence that tells how the two kinds are alike.

Animal Actions Have Different Beginnings

- ① On a beach at night, newly hatched sea turtles crawl toward the brightest horizon, which is usually moonlight reflecting on the ocean. No adult turtle teaches them this action. They also use their flippers to dig through sand and move toward water. These actions are instincts, behaviors animals are born able to do. Artificial lights near beaches can confuse hatchlings and send them inland.
- ② At an aquarium, a young sea lion watches a trainer tap a target with a pole. At first, the sea lion does not touch it. After many practice sessions and fish rewards, it swims to the target when it sees the pole. This is a learned behavior because experience changed what the animal does. Another sea lion can learn the same response by practicing with a trainer.
- ③ Instincts and learned behaviors can both help animals survive, but they begin in different ways. A hatchling turtle can head toward natural ocean light without practice. A sea lion needs practice before responding to a trainer's target. Scientists ask questions such as, "Was the behavior present before experience?" and "Did practice or teaching change it?" These questions help them compare behaviors carefully.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What detail shows that moving toward ocean light is an instinct for a hatchling turtle?

2 How does the sea lion's target response begin differently from the turtle's movement toward ocean light?

3 What is one way instincts and learned behaviors are alike, according to the passage?

4 Name the two questions scientists can ask to compare whether a behavior is instinctive or learned.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an animal behavior that is not in the passage. In three sentences, describe it, classify it as an instinct or learned behavior with evidence, and compare it to one behavior in the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts that show a behavior happens without practice. Circle facts that show a behavior needs experience or practice, then write 1 beside a sentence that tells how the two kinds are alike. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What detail shows that moving toward ocean light is an instinct for a hatchling turtle?	No adult turtle teaches the hatchling, and it moves toward natural ocean light without practice.
2	How does the sea lion's target response begin differently from the turtle's movement toward ocean light?	The sea lion learns its response through practice sessions and fish rewards. The turtle's movement begins without teaching or practice.
3	What is one way instincts and learned behaviors are alike, according to the passage?	Both can help animals survive.
4	Name the two questions scientists can ask to compare whether a behavior is instinctive or learned.	Was the behavior present before experience? Did practice or teaching change it?

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A young spider can spin a web without another spider showing it how. This is an instinct because it begins without teaching or practice. It is like the turtle's movement toward ocean light because both behaviors begin without experience.

Accept accurate animal behaviors that are clearly classified with evidence about whether teaching, practice, or prior experience is needed. The comparison must state a similarity or difference with a behavior from the passage.