Rocky Shore Survivors

How animals meet the challenges of a changing shore

L.3.1.3 "Obtain and communicate examples of physical features or behaviors of vertebrates and invertebrates and how these characteristics help them survive in particular environments (e.g., animals hibernate, migrate…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a body part or action that helps each animal survive. Circle the words that explain how it helps.

Life on a Rocky Shore

1. At low tide, the water pulls away from a rocky shore. Some animals stay in small pools, but others are left on wet rocks. A mussel is an invertebrate, an animal without a backbone. Its two hard shells protect its soft body. When the tide goes out, the mussel shuts its shells tightly. This holds water inside, so the mussel does not dry out in the sun.

2. Waves crash over the rocks when the tide returns. A sea star is another invertebrate that lives here. It has many tiny tube feet on the underside of its arms. The sea star uses these feet to grip a rock while waves push past it. The feet also help it move across the rocks to find food, such as mussels.

3. Farther out, a harbor seal swims through chilly water. A seal is a vertebrate, an animal with a backbone. A thick layer of fat under its skin helps keep its body warm. The seal can stay in the water to hunt fish, even when the water is cold. On this shore, different body parts and actions help animals face the water, waves, and sun.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do a mussel's hard shells help it survive?

2. What does a mussel do when the tide goes out, and how does that action help it?

3. How do a sea star's tube feet help it survive where waves crash?

4. Is a harbor seal a vertebrate or an invertebrate? Explain how one of its body parts helps it survive in cold water.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a real animal not named in the passage. Write two or three sentences that tell whether it has a backbone, name one body part or behavior, and explain how that trait helps it survive where it lives.

ANSWER KEY

Rocky Shore Survivors

GRADE 3 · L.3.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a body part or action that helps each animal survive. Circle the words that explain how it helps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do a mussel's hard shells help it survive?	**The hard shells protect the mussel's soft body.**
2	What does a mussel do when the tide goes out, and how does that action help it?	**It shuts its shells tightly to hold water inside, which keeps it from drying out.**
3	How do a sea star's tube feet help it survive where waves crash?	**Its tube feet grip the rocks so waves do not push it away.**
4	Is a harbor seal a vertebrate or an invertebrate? Explain how one of its body parts helps it survive in cold water.	**A harbor seal is a vertebrate. Its thick layer of fat helps keep its body warm in cold water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A camel is a vertebrate that lives in the desert. Its hump stores fat. The camel can use that stored fat for energy when food is hard to find.

Accept other accurate body parts or actions from the passage when the explanation connects the trait to survival. For Part 3, check that the animal is real and that its trait helps it meet a challenge in its environment.