Pond Survival Tools

How body parts and behaviors help living things at a pond

L.3.1 "Students will demonstrate an understanding of internal and external structures in plants and animals and how they relate to their growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction within an environment…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each plant or animal body part in the passage, then circle the words that tell what that part helps the living thing do.

Life at the Pond

1. At the edge of a pond, a water lily grows in the mud. Its roots hold it in place and take in water and minerals. A long stem holds each leaf near the sunny surface. The leaves catch sunlight, which helps the plant make food and grow. In summer, bright petals attract insects. As insects visit flowers, they move pollen between them, helping the plant make seeds.

2. A frog rests on a water lily leaf. When a hungry fish swims close, the frog kicks with its strong back legs and slips away. Webbed feet push against the water as it swims. The frog comes up for air because its lungs take in oxygen. Later, it flicks out a sticky tongue to catch a fly. These body parts help the frog move, breathe, and eat at the pond.

3. In fall, the pond grows cold, and fewer insects fly above it. Some frogs rest on the pond bottom for winter. Their bodies slow down, so they need less food. They take in oxygen through their skin while underwater. Ducks use their wings to fly to warmer places where food is easier to find. In spring, the ducks return to the pond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the water lily's roots and leaves each help it grow or survive?

2. Why might bright petals help a water lily make seeds?

3. How do a frog's webbed feet and lungs help it live at the pond?

4. How does a frog survive winter at the pond, and what does a duck do instead?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a plant or animal not named in the passage. Write two sentences: name it and its home, then explain how one of its body parts helps it survive there.

ANSWER KEY

Pond Survival Tools

GRADE 3 · L.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each plant or animal body part in the passage, then circle the words that tell what that part helps the living thing do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the water lily's roots and leaves each help it grow or survive?	**The roots hold the plant in place and take in water and minerals. The leaves catch sunlight so the plant can make food and grow.**
2	Why might bright petals help a water lily make seeds?	**Bright petals attract insects. The insects move pollen between flowers, helping the plant make seeds.**
3	How do a frog's webbed feet and lungs help it live at the pond?	**Webbed feet help the frog swim. Its lungs take in oxygen when it comes up for air.**
4	How does a frog survive winter at the pond, and what does a duck do instead?	**A frog rests on the pond bottom, needs less food, and takes in oxygen through its skin. A duck uses its wings to fly to a warmer place where food is easier to find.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A camel lives in a dry desert. Its long eyelashes help keep blowing sand out of its eyes so it can see.

Accept accurate answers that connect each named structure or winter behavior to its function. For Your Turn, look for a real plant or animal, a suitable home, and a correct explanation of how one body part helps it survive.