

Pond Survival Case

Use habitat evidence to compare how organisms survive during a drought.

3-LS4-3 "Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence that tells what an organism needs or can do. Circle each survival result, survives well, survives less well, or cannot survive, so you can use evidence in an argument.

A Pond During Drought

- ① In spring, a small pond holds shallow water, pond plants, insects, tadpoles, frogs, water striders, and herons. Tadpoles live in water and use gills to breathe. Frogs need water to keep their skin moist and to lay eggs. Herons stand in shallow water and catch frogs and insects. Pond plants grow in the mud and use sunlight. These living and nonliving parts make a pond system.
- ② During a summer drought, the pond's water becomes very low. Much of the muddy edge dries, and fewer pond plants grow. Tadpoles have too little water, so many cannot survive. Frogs can move to a wetter place, but frogs that stay may have dry skin and fewer places to lay eggs. Herons find less shallow water and fewer animals to catch, so they survive less well.
- ③ Water striders survive well in the small pool that remains. Their long legs let them move on the water's surface, where they eat insects. Tadpoles cannot survive because they need more water for breathing with gills. Frogs and herons survive less well. Frogs may find a wetter place, while herons have fewer animals to catch. Each organism depends on the pond's water, food, and space.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What are two changes in the pond habitat during the drought?

2 Make a claim about whether tadpoles can survive during the drought. What evidence supports your claim?

3 Why do frogs and herons survive less well during the drought? Give one evidence detail for each organism.

4 Which organism survives well in the smaller pond? Use two details from the passage as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence argument about survival during the drought. State which organism survives well, which survives less well, and which cannot survive. Use at least two details from the passage as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline evidence that tells what an organism needs or can do. Circle each survival result, survives well, survives less well, or cannot survive, so you can use evidence in an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two changes in the pond habitat during the drought?	The water becomes very low, and much of the muddy edge dries. Fewer pond plants also grow.
2	Make a claim about whether tadpoles can survive during the drought. What evidence supports your claim?	Tadpoles cannot survive because they have too little water and need water to breathe with gills.
3	Why do frogs and herons survive less well during the drought? Give one evidence detail for each organism.	Frogs may have dry skin and fewer places to lay eggs. Herons have less shallow water and fewer animals to catch.
4	Which organism survives well in the smaller pond? Use two details from the passage as evidence.	Water striders survive well. Their long legs let them move on the water's surface, and they eat insects there.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the drought, water striders survive well, frogs survive less well, and tadpoles cannot survive. Water striders can move on the remaining water and eat insects on its surface. Tadpoles need more water to breathe with gills, while frogs may have dry skin and fewer places to lay eggs.

Accept accurate claims that connect an organism's survival to evidence about its needs, characteristics, food, water, or space. For the open response, students should identify all three survival levels and include at least two accurate passage details.