

Pond Survival Case

Build an argument from the needs of organisms in one habitat.

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 each organism's needs and the habitat details that meet or fail to meet them. Circle the three survival results. Use the evidence to explain each result.

When a Pond Dries

- ① Read this imagined habitat case. No animals are placed in a dry pond for a test. During a drought, all standing water in a small pond disappears. Grass still grows along its edge, and insects live there. A few shaded cracks in the mud stay damp. Compare three kinds of animals if they must remain in this dry-pond habitat.
- ② Grasshoppers can survive well here because the grass gives them food and places to hide. They breathe air and do not need a pool to live in. The adult pond frogs in this case survive less well: they find insects to eat and a little damp shelter, but the habitat has much less moisture than their usual pond edge.
- ③ The young tadpoles in this case still have gills and no legs. They cannot survive in this habitat because there is no standing water for them to live and breathe in. The dry pond meets the grasshoppers' needs, meets fewer of the adult frogs' needs, and fails to meet the tadpoles' water needs. These claims are about this habitat, not every pond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 What two details describe the habitat after the drought?

2 Make a claim about the young tadpoles in this dry pond. Give evidence.

3 Why do the adult frogs survive less well? Include something they have and something they lack.

4 Which animals survive well here? Give two supporting habitat details.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write an argument of 3-4 sentences comparing all three animals in this dry pond. State who survives well, less well, and not at all. Support EACH result with a habitat detail and the animal's need. Keep your claim about this case.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each organism's needs and the habitat details that meet or fail to meet them. Circle the three survival results. Use the evidence to explain each result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details describe the habitat after the drought?	There is no standing water. Grass and insects remain at the edge; a few shaded mud cracks stay damp.
2	Make a claim about the young tadpoles in this dry pond. Give evidence.	They cannot survive here: they still have gills and need water, but no standing water remains.
3	Why do the adult frogs survive less well? Include something they have and something they lack.	They have insects for food and some damp cracks, but much less moisture than their usual habitat.
4	Which animals survive well here? Give two supporting habitat details.	Grasshoppers: the grass gives food and hiding places. They breathe air and do not need a pool.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In this dry pond, grasshoppers survive well because the grass gives them food and shelter. The adult frogs survive less well because insects are available, but there is little moisture. The young tadpoles cannot survive because they need water and the pond has none.

Accept equivalent evidence-based arguments about the specified dry-pond habitat. Require all three survival levels and an evidence-to-need link for each. Do not generalize these results to all species or ponds. This is a reading case, never an animal survival experiment.