

Survival Teams

Connect animal evidence to a survival argument.

3-LS2-1 "Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline group hunting in paragraph 1, warning calls in paragraph 2, and huddling in paragraph 3. Beside each, write the need it helps meet: food, protection, or warmth.

Working Together to Survive

- ① Wolves live in groups called packs. Pack members can hunt large prey together. Prey means animals hunted for food. In Yellowstone, wolves hunt animals such as elk and bison. Group hunting can help wolves get food from large animals. Pack members also help care for their young. These are ways living together can help members survive; a pack does not succeed at every hunt.
- ② Prairie dogs live in large groups with many burrows nearby. A burrow is a tunnel in the ground. Many group members watch for predators, such as coyotes. Their warning calls can alert neighbors to danger. Prairie dogs can then seek shelter in their burrows. A neighbor's warning gives other members information they might not notice alone. Warnings help protect members, but do not remove every danger.
- ③ Emperor penguins live in a very cold place called Antarctica. They gather closely in groups called huddles. Penguins in a tight huddle lose less heat than birds standing apart. Saving heat helps them save energy in the cold. The birds take small steps together, so a crowded huddle can keep moving. The group provides a way to cope with cold weather. This helps explain how being close to other penguins can aid survival.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Make a claim about how wolf packs help members survive. Support it with one detail.

2 Explain the connection between a prairie dog's warning call and another member's survival.

3 Why is saving heat useful to emperor penguins? Use a detail about the group.

4 A student says, "Living in a group always keeps an animal safe." Does the passage support always? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short argument that some animals form groups that help members survive. State your claim, use evidence from TWO animals in this passage, and explain how each behavior helps survival. Explain why your evidence supports some animals rather than all animals.

My evidence-based argument

Connect each fact to food, protection, warmth, or care. Use the provided evidence; you do not need to research a new animal.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline group hunting in paragraph 1, warning calls in paragraph 2, and huddling in paragraph 3. Beside each, write the need it helps meet: food, protection, or warmth. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Make a claim about how wolf packs help members survive. Support it with one detail.	Wolf packs can help members get food because wolves hunt large prey together. Accept care for young as another supported benefit.
2	Explain the connection between a prairie dog's warning call and another member's survival.	The call alerts a neighbor to a predator. The neighbor can seek shelter in a burrow, which can help it avoid being eaten.
3	Why is saving heat useful to emperor penguins? Use a detail about the group.	Penguins huddle close together and lose less heat. This saves energy and helps them cope with the cold.
4	A student says, "Living in a group always keeps an animal safe." Does the passage support always? Explain.	No. Packs do not succeed at every hunt, and warning calls do not remove every danger. The evidence supports can help, not a guarantee.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some animals form groups that help members survive. Wolves hunt large prey together, which helps pack members get food. Prairie dogs warn their neighbors about predators, so members can seek shelter and avoid being eaten. These examples show benefits for some animals; they do not show that all animals need groups.

Accept any two passage animals when each behavior is linked to a survival benefit. A list of animal names or facts without explaining the benefit is incomplete. This is an argument from provided evidence, not a report of student observations. Background sources: National Park Service, Wolf Ecology (Yellowstone) and Prairie Dogs (Devils Tower); Zitterbart and colleagues, Coordinated Movements Prevent Jamming in an Emperor Penguin Huddle, PLOS ONE 6(6), e20260 (2011).