Weather Changes Life

Trace how weather changes animal and plant responses.

3.12.A "explain how temperature and precipitation affect animal growth and behavior through migration and hibernation and plant responses through dormancy;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each weather condition, then circle the animal or plant response it causes. Draw a line from each weather condition to its response to show the cause and effect.

When Seasons Shift

1. In late summer, cooler nights and shorter days signal change in a meadow. Many monarch butterflies begin migrating south before freezing temperatures arrive. They need warm places where they can find food. Some birds also migrate when cold weather reduces insects and seeds. A long dry season can reduce nectar or berries, so animals may leave early to search for better food and water.

2. During winter, a black bear may hibernate in a sheltered den. Its body temperature drops a little, its heart beats more slowly, and it uses stored fat for energy. Hibernation helps the bear survive when low temperatures and deep snow make food hard to find. In spring, warmer temperatures melt snow and bring new plants. The bear wakes and begins searching for food.

3. Plants respond too. When autumn becomes colder and rainfall is low, a maple tree stops making as much food. It drops its leaves and becomes dormant. The living parts of the tree stay alive, but growth slows greatly. Dormancy protects the tree when water is scarce or the ground is frozen. After spring rain and warmer weather return, buds open and the tree grows new leaves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can a long dry season cause some animals to migrate early?

2. What winter conditions make hibernation helpful for a black bear?

3. What does the maple tree do when autumn is colder and rainfall is low?

4. How do warmer temperatures in spring affect both the bear and the maple tree?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal that migrates or hibernates and a plant. Fill in the chart to explain how each responds during a cold, snowy winter and a warmer, rainy spring.

SEASON AND WEATHER	ANIMAL RESPONSE AND REASON	PLANT RESPONSE AND REASON

ANSWER KEY # Weather Changes Life

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.12.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each weather condition, then circle the animal or plant response it causes. Draw a line from each weather condition to its response to show the cause and effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can a long dry season cause some animals to migrate early?	**A dry season can reduce nectar or berries. Animals may leave early to find better food and water.**
2	What winter conditions make hibernation helpful for a black bear?	**Low temperatures and deep snow make food hard to find.**
3	What does the maple tree do when autumn is colder and rainfall is low?	**It drops its leaves and becomes dormant. Its growth slows greatly.**
4	How do warmer temperatures in spring affect both the bear and the maple tree?	**The bear wakes and searches for food. The maple tree's buds open and it grows new leaves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SEASON AND WEATHER	ANIMAL RESPONSE AND REASON	PLANT RESPONSE AND REASON
Cold, snowy winter	A ground squirrel hibernates because cold weather and snow make food hard to find.	A tulip is dormant because the ground is cold and frozen.
Warmer, rainy spring	The ground squirrel wakes and looks for food as plants grow.	The tulip grows leaves and a flower after warmer weather and rain return.

Accept responses that correctly connect a temperature or precipitation change to migration, hibernation, or plant dormancy. For the chart, accept different accurate animals and plants if each response includes a weather-based reason.