

Built to Survive

Read how outside body parts help animals live in their habitats.

3.13.A “explore and explain how external structures and functions of animals such as the neck of a giraffe or webbed feet on a duck enable them to survive in their environment; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each external body structure in the passage. Circle the words that tell how that structure helps the animal survive.

Helpful Outside Parts

- ① Animals have body parts on the outside that help them live where they do. A giraffe lives where leaves grow high in trees. Its long neck lifts its head toward leaves that many other animals cannot reach. The giraffe can eat this food while standing on the ground. Its long neck helps it get enough food to survive.
- ② A duck often swims and walks near ponds. Its webbed feet have skin between the toes. The feet push against water like paddles, helping the duck swim after plants or small water animals. On land, the webbing can make walking less easy than it is for animals with separate toes. In water, webbed feet are especially useful.
- ③ A barn owl hunts when light is low. It has large eyes, but its outer ears also help it hunt. The ear openings are not even with each other on the owl's head. This helps the owl notice where a small animal is moving. The owl can fly toward the prey and catch it for food. Its ears help it survive by helping it find prey.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does a giraffe's long neck help it survive where it lives?

2 What is one way a duck's webbed feet help it in water?

3 Why might webbed feet be more useful in a pond than on land?

4 How do a barn owl's outer ears help it find food?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an animal not named in the passage. Write two sentences that name one external body structure and explain how it helps the animal survive in its environment.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each external body structure in the passage. Circle the words that tell how that structure helps the animal survive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a giraffe's long neck help it survive where it lives?	Its long neck lets it reach and eat leaves high in trees while standing on the ground.
2	What is one way a duck's webbed feet help it in water?	The webbed feet push against water like paddles, helping the duck swim after plants or small water animals.
3	Why might webbed feet be more useful in a pond than on land?	The webbing helps a duck push through water to swim, but it can make walking on land less easy.
4	How do a barn owl's outer ears help it find food?	Its ear openings help it notice where a small animal is moving, so it can fly toward and catch prey.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver has a broad, flat tail that helps it swim through pond water. The tail helps the beaver move to find food and escape danger.

Accept any accurate animal, external structure, and survival connection. The response should clearly explain how the outside body part helps the animal live, find food, move, or stay safe in its environment.