

Survival Behaviors

Read how inherited and learned actions help animals live.

5.13.B “explain how instinctual behavioral traits such as turtle hatchlings returning to the sea and learned behavioral traits such as orcas hunting in packs increase chances of survival.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each behavior named in the passage, circle the instinctual behavior, and draw a line from each behavior to words that tell how it helps animals survive.

A Trip to Sea, A Hunt for Food

- ① A behavioral trait is a way an animal acts. Some traits are instinctual, meaning animals are born ready to do them. Soon after many sea turtle hatchlings leave their nests, they move toward the brighter, open horizon over the water. This instinct guides them away from the dark beach and toward the sea, where they can begin life in their ocean habitat.
- ② Moving quickly toward the sea can increase a hatchling's chance of survival. On land, a hatchling may dry out or be eaten by birds, crabs, or other predators. Reaching the water lets it swim and find food later. The hatchling does not need a parent to show it this first trip, although bright artificial lights can pull it in the wrong direction.
- ③ Orcas also use behavioral traits to get food. Young orcas watch older members of their pod and practice hunting methods. In some pods, orcas work together to herd fish into a tight group. In others, they may use different learned methods for local prey. Hunting in a pack can help the orcas catch enough food and share skills that help the pod survive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Is a sea turtle hatchling's first trip toward the sea instinctual or learned? What detail from the passage supports your answer?

2 Explain two ways that reaching the sea can help a turtle hatchling survive.

3 How do young orcas learn hunting methods?

4 How can hunting in a pack increase an orca pod's chance of survival?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an animal not named in the passage. Write three sentences that name one instinctual trait and one learned trait, then explain how each trait can help the animal survive.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each behavior named in the passage, circle the instinctual behavior, and draw a line from each behavior to words that tell how it helps animals survive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is a sea turtle hatchling's first trip toward the sea instinctual or learned? What detail from the passage supports your answer?	It is instinctual. The passage says the hatchling does not need a parent to show it the first trip.
2	Explain two ways that reaching the sea can help a turtle hatchling survive.	It helps the hatchling avoid drying out and escape beach predators. In the water, it can swim and later find food.
3	How do young orcas learn hunting methods?	They watch older pod members and practice hunting methods.
4	How can hunting in a pack increase an orca pod's chance of survival?	Working together can help orcas herd and catch enough food. It also lets them share hunting skills that help the pod survive.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A young wolf has an instinct to suckle milk from its mother. It learns to hunt elk by watching and practicing with its pack. Suckling provides food when it is very young, and learned hunting helps it get food as it grows.

Accept answers that correctly identify the turtle behavior as instinctual and the orca behaviors as learned, with a survival connection supported by the passage. For the open response, accept a different animal if both traits are accurately classified and each explanation connects the trait to survival.