

Coast Survival Tools

Compare body features and behaviors that help ocean animals survive.

5.13 "Organisms and environments. The student knows that organisms undergo similar life processes and have structures and behaviors that help them survive within their environments..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each body structure or behavior that helps an organism survive. Circle the words that tell how that trait helps the organism.

Survival Along the Coast

- ① Along a rocky Pacific coast, kelp forests grow in shallow ocean water. Sea otters, kelp crabs, and rockfish share this environment, but they use it differently. A sea otter's thick fur traps air and helps keep its body warm in cold water. A kelp crab has a hard shell for protection and hooked legs that grip slippery kelp. A rockfish can hide among kelp with its mottled coloring.
- ② Some survival behaviors begin without being taught. When turtle hatchlings leave a beach nest at night, they move toward the brighter, open horizon over the sea. This instinct helps them reach water quickly. Other behaviors are learned. Young orcas watch older members of their pod and practice working together to surround fish. Hunting in a pack can help the orcas catch food that may be difficult for one orca to catch alone.
- ③ In the kelp forest, crab legs and a rockfish's coloring solve different problems. The legs help a crab stay attached when waves move the kelp, while coloring makes a rockfish less noticeable to predators and prey. Thick fur lets an otter stay active in cold water. Whether an organism has a useful body structure, an instinct, or a learned behavior, the trait can raise its chance of surviving.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the kelp crab's hooked legs and the rockfish's mottled coloring help the animals survive in the kelp forest?

2 Why is moving toward the open horizon an instinct for turtle hatchlings? Include how this behavior helps them survive.

3 What makes orcas hunting in a pack a learned behavior, and how can it help them get food?

4 Sea otters and kelp crabs live in the same coastal environment. Explain how their structures help them meet different survival challenges.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about two different animals that could live in the same pond. Describe one survival structure for each animal, then describe one instinctual or learned behavior and explain how it helps an animal survive.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each body structure or behavior that helps an organism survive. Circle the words that tell how that trait helps the organism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the kelp crab's hooked legs and the rockfish's mottled coloring help the animals survive in the kelp forest?	The crab's hooked legs help it grip kelp when waves move it. The rockfish's mottled coloring helps it hide from predators and prey among the kelp.
2	Why is moving toward the open horizon an instinct for turtle hatchlings? Include how this behavior helps them survive.	Turtle hatchlings do it without being taught. Moving toward the horizon helps them reach the sea quickly.
3	What makes orcas hunting in a pack a learned behavior, and how can it help them get food?	Young orcas watch older pod members and practice working together. A pack can surround fish and catch food that one orca may have trouble catching alone.
4	Sea otters and kelp crabs live in the same coastal environment. Explain how their structures help them meet different survival challenges.	An otter's thick fur traps air and keeps its body warm in cold water. A crab's hard shell protects it, and its hooked legs help it stay attached to slippery kelp.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a pond, a duck's webbed feet push water, helping it swim to food or away from danger. A turtle's hard shell protects it from many predators. A newly hatched turtle swims toward water by instinct, which helps it reach a safer place.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each structure or behavior to a survival benefit stated in the passage. For the open response, accept accurate pond animals, two structure-function connections, and a correctly identified instinctual or learned behavior with a survival explanation.