Built for Jobs

Look for how structures help living things and systems do their work.

5.5.F "explain the relationship between the structure and function of objects, organisms, and systems; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each structure named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what each structure helps an organism, object, or system do.

Shapes That Help

1. Living things have body parts shaped for particular jobs. A hummingbird has a long, narrow beak that can reach nectar deep inside many flowers. Its tongue is also long and has tiny grooves that help it collect the sweet liquid. These structures let the bird drink quickly while hovering, so it can get food from flowers that other birds may not reach.

2. People also design objects by matching structure to function. A bicycle helmet has a hard outer shell that spreads the force of a bump over a larger area. Beneath the shell, thick foam squeezes during a hit and slows the head's motion. Adjustable straps hold the helmet in place, so its protective parts cover the head when they are needed.

3. Several connected parts can form a system with a larger job. In an aquarium filter, a pump pulls water through a tube. A sponge catches bits of food and waste, while a chamber of special material provides a home for helpful bacteria. The cleaned water returns to the tank. Each part's structure supports its own function, and together the parts help keep the fish's water cleaner.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the hummingbird's beak and tongue structures help it get food?

2. How does the hard outer shell of a bicycle helmet help protect a rider?

3. Why are adjustable straps an important structure on a bicycle helmet?

4. Explain how the pump, sponge, and bacteria chamber work together in the aquarium filter system.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent an object that helps with a daily problem. Write two sentences that name two structures on your object and explain how each structure helps the object do its job.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.5.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each structure named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what each structure helps an organism, object, or system do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the hummingbird's beak and tongue structures help it get food?	**Its long, narrow beak reaches nectar deep inside flowers. Its long tongue has tiny grooves that help collect the nectar.**
2	How does the hard outer shell of a bicycle helmet help protect a rider?	**The hard outer shell spreads the force of a bump over a larger area.**
3	Why are adjustable straps an important structure on a bicycle helmet?	**They hold the helmet in place so its protective parts cover the head when needed.**
4	Explain how the pump, sponge, and bacteria chamber work together in the aquarium filter system.	**The pump moves water through the tube, the sponge catches food and waste, and the chamber gives helpful bacteria a home. Together, these parts help clean the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My backpack has wide, padded shoulder straps and a flat, stiff back panel. The straps spread the load across my shoulders, and the panel keeps books from poking my back.

Accept answers that accurately connect a named structure to its function using passage details. For the open response, accept any sensible invented object with two structures and clear explanations of how they support its job.