Animal Adaptations: 5

Instincts and Learned Behaviors

VOCABULARY:

adaptation: a special skill which helps an animal to survive and do everything it needs to do.

instinct: a behavior animals are born with; innate

migration: a movement of a group of animals from one region to another and back again.

hibernation: the act of going into a long, deep sleep.



Monarch butterfly

An **instinct** is a behavior that an animal begins with. Instincts are **adaptations** that help animals meet their needs. The monarch butterfly files south for the winter. It goes to places where they have the food and climate it needs to survive. The behavior or action of flying south is not something monarchs have learned. It is an instinct.

Some animals travel long distance to meet their needs. E.g.: the female Atlantic green turtles go to Ascension Island to lay their eggs in the sand on the beach during their nesting season. The turtles do not learn from other turtles where the feeding areas are or how to get to Ascension Island. They know by instinct where to go. This type of instinct is called **Migration**. It is the movement of a group of one type of animal from one region to another and back again. It is a behavioral adaptation. Other animals that migrate are pectoral sandpiper, gray whales, and Pacific salmon.



Atlantic Green Turtle

Hibernation is a period when an animal goes into a long, deep '**sleep**'. An animal prepares to hibernate by eating extra food and finding shelter. During hibernation, the animal's body temperature drops and its breathing rate and heartbeat rate fall. As a result, the animal needs little or no food. The energy it does need comes from fat stored in its body. Animals that hibernate - – squirrel, bears and bats. Some animal behaviors are not instincts. They are learned. E.g.:- how to hunt, sound to communicate with each other, how to build homes, how to eat certain foods. i.e.: crack open a nut.



squirrel

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. "***Ascension Island is located mid-way between Brazil and Africa***."

   The female Atlantic turtle _____ from its feeding grounds along the coast of Brazil to its nesting ground across the Atlantic Ocean to Ascension Island.



2. During which season do the green turtle travel to Ascension Island?

   a. winter
   b. hibernation
   c. nesting

3. What happens to an animal's body during hibernation?
   Write **T** if the activity is **true**. Write **F** if the activity is **false**.

   _____ breathing rate falls

   _____ body temperature rises

   _____ heart rate drops

4. What is the difference between an instinct and learned behavior?

   An _____ is something that you are born with, but _____ is something that you are taught.

5. Match the following terms with its correct definition. Then, match the animal that with each behavior.

TERM	DEFINITION	ANIMAL
migration		
hibernation		
instincts		

LIVEWORKSHEETS