Directions
Read this article. Then answer questions 11 through 17.

Hide or Fight:
How Animals Stay Safe

by Leo Elze

You might feel a little scared sometimes if you were a small animal. Predators are animals that hunt other animals for food. They are always looking for prey. You could say that "prey" means "dinner." There are many ways animals keep safe from their predators. Some animals hide, some fight back, and some have a special shield.

The way some animals look helps them to hide from danger. Chameleons change color to hide. They can turn green like moss, or gray like a rock. A predator would not see a gray chameleon on a gray rock. Some insects are hiding all the time. That is because they look like dried leaves and twigs. There are also fish that look like bits of seaweed in the water.



A chameleon is an animal that can change its color to hide.



The color of this green tree frog helps it to hide from danger. It is the same color as a leaf.



A walking stick hides by looking like a stick.

Some animals do not use their teeth or claws to fight. They use poison. Usually, animals and insects that use poison have very bright colors. The bright color warns other animals to stay away.

There are frogs that have poison on their tongues. Some snakes have poison in their fangs. Some insects even have poison in their claws. Poison is not just for keeping safe, though. It is also used to hunt other animals.

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Some animals carry a shield all the time. Crabs and lobsters have a hard shell. This hard shell is really their skeleton. They do not have a skeleton inside their body the way we do. Clams, mussels, scallops, and oysters all hide in hard shells. One animal, the hermit crab, does not grow its own shell, but finds shells that have been outgrown or left by other animals. Hermit crabs find an empty sea shell and move in.

One animal uses needles instead of a shell: the porcupine. Porcupines use their spiky spines to keep safe. No predator wants a mouthful of sharp needles.

Predators may be strong and have keen eyes and sharp claws and teeth. But nature has given their prey different ways to hide or fight back. Most animals, even very small ones, are not totally helpless. Whether they are hiding, fighting, or spitting poison, animals that are prey can make the hunt very difficult for a hungry predator.



The Monarch butterfly's colors warn predators to stay away.



A copperhead snake has poison in its fangs.



This crab's hard shell is its skeleton.

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11 What is this article **mostly** about?

A the way some animals fight using poison
B how some animals keep safe from predators
C how some animals protect themselves with shields
D the way some animals look can help them hide

12 Which fact would be **best** to include in a report about chameleons?

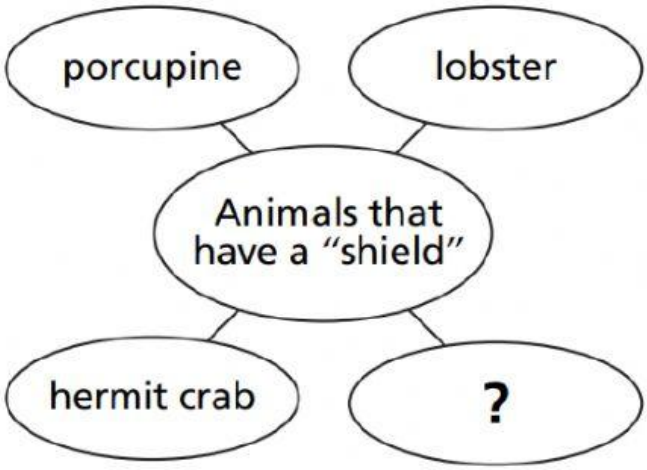
F Some animals use poison to fight.
G Some animals hunt other animals.
H Some animals have their own shields.
J Some animals change their appearance to hide.

13 Which fact from the article **best** supports the idea that a red frog might be poisonous?

A Some frogs have poisonous tongues.
B Some animals use poison to fight predators.
C Some bright-colored animals are poisonous.
D Some poisonous animals are predators.

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14 Here is a web about the article.



Which animal could be added to this web?

F snake
G oyster
H leaf bug
J tree frog

15 According to the article, which statement about hermit crabs is **true**?

A They find leftover shells to use for homes.
B Their hard shell is really their skeleton.
C They use poison to protect themselves.
D Their color matches their surroundings.

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16 After reading the article, the reader could conclude that

F hermit crabs have a hard time finding new shells
G chameleons can only change their color to green
H animals such as lobsters use their color to protect themselves
J animals such as insects and crabs have many ways of staying safe

17 The author **most likely** wrote this article to

A convince people not to hunt animals
B give information about what animals eat
C explain how animals protect themselves
D entertain with a story about animals

Reading Comprehension Answers

Q.11	Q.12	Q.13	Q.14	Q.15	Q.16	Q.17

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