Name: _____

You will hear a lecture about animal instinct.

Complete the sentences below. Write *NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER* for each answer.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

In today's lecture, we will continue our talk about animal behavior. Much of animal behavior can be explained as instinct - that is, behavior that is already programmed into animals (1)_____. It is behavior that does not need to be learned. For example, animals instinctively reproduce and care for their (2)_____. And they instinctively behave in certain ways to (3)_____ in nature.

One of the stark realities of the animal world is that most species fall into one of two categories - (4)_____ (those that hunt other animals for food) ... or (5)_____ (those hunted by predators). In fact, many animals actually play both roles in nature-sometimes as predators and sometimes as prey. For those that are prey, instinct drives them to (6)_____ in ways that protect them from predators in order to survive. For example, fish swim in huge (7)_____, moving almost as one organism as they search for food. By traveling in a group, they can (8)_____ predators. But more importantly, this behavior increases the chance that predators will choose to (9)_____ the fish that are not swimming in the school.

In order to hunt, predators also often travel in groups-or (10)_____. They work together and use their combined (11)_____ to single out their prey from the herd or the flock, increasing the chance of (12)_____ and ensuring their own survival. Hunting in a pack also makes it possible to kill prey that are larger than the predators are. For example, while one lion couldn't kill a (13)_____ alone, several lions hunting together could.

Instinct also drives animals to either lead or (14)_____. In a herd, or even in a pack of predators, some animals are born to be more (15)_____ than others. Animals will often fight each other for that top position. For example, in a herd of (16)_____, the strongest or the (17)_____ horse may play a more dominant role in the herd and lead the others - which is crucial for everyone's survival. Another aspect of the predator-prey relationship is what is called a (18)"_____" response. When predators approach their prey, the prey may instinctually respond in one of 2 ways. One way is to stand its ground, using hooves, horns, (19)_____ to fight back and drive the predator away. However, if it can't do that, it will try to get away as (20)_____ as possible.

LIVEWORKSHEETS