

ANIMALS

All plants and animals are living organisms. Both plants and animals need certain things in order to survive and use certain parts and structures in order to get what they need from the environment.

Animals need water, food, shelter, and oxygen to survive, and they have many different body parts to get these things they need.

Lesson Checkpoint:

What are four things an animal needs to survive?

Water

Animal
plants
mouths

S
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Food

Animals have body parts to help them catch and eat the particular food they need. When an animal is the **predator** trying to catch its **prey** (which is the animal it wants to eat), these characteristics are important. When an owl is chasing a mouse to eat, the owl is the predator and the mouse is the prey.

Here are some examples of the ways different species use their physical traits to get and eat the food they need.

- An owl has **sharp claws** for catching and killing its prey.
- A hummingbird uses its **long beak** to get nectar out of tube like flowers.
- An elephant use its **trunk** to pick up food and to feed it into his mouth.
- Tigers and lions have **sharp teeth** that they use to tear and chew tough meat.



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Lesson Checkpoint:

What is an example of a body part an animal uses to eat?

Movement

Animals have different body parts that help them move. For example, an elephant has four large feet to support its very large body and help it move quickly and surely. A duck has webbed feet for faster swimming. A monkey has long arms, long legs, and even a tail, for moving easily through the dense forests on tree limbs and vines.



Protection

Animals have different body parts that help them protect themselves from danger.

- A turtle has a hard shell to protect its body.
- A porcupine has long, sharp quills to protect itself.
- A rattlesnake has a rattle to warn predators.
- A skunk has a strong smell to protect itself.



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Lesson Checkpoint:

What do many snakes have that they use as protection against predators?

Shelter

Animals need shelter to survive, too. A **shelter** is a place that covers and protects an animal.



Natural

Reproduction

Reproduction

Animals have live births and the parents give birth to young. Some animals give birth to one offspring and some give birth to more than one.



Animals

Animals also have live births. Some animals usually give birth to more than one offspring.

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Lesson Checkpoint: What is one animal that has a live birth?

Some animals lay eggs instead of having live births. The mother lays the eggs, the offspring develop inside the eggs, and then the babies hatch when they are fully developed. A chicken is an animal that lays eggs.



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Lesson Checkpoint: What animal dad takes care of their young?

