🐾 **Lesson Plan: Introduction to Animals**

Grade Level: 4
Subject: Life Science
Duration: 45–60 min
NGSS 4-LS1-1: Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

🎯 **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Identify** the main characteristics of animals, including being multicellular and heterotrophic
- **Classify** animals into vertebrates and invertebrates based on the presence of a backbone
- **Explain** how physical adaptations like camouflage and mimicry help animals survive

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the animal at one certain place only.

- **Hibernation:** An animal's state of inactivity and significantly lowered body temperature when the weather gets cold.

💼 **Materials Needed: (all links are included in this PDF)**

- Study Guide: Introduction to Animals 1 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/guide/study-guide-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1.pdf)

- Worksheet: Introduction to Animals 1-0
  (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-0.pdf)
- Worksheet: Introduction to Animals 1-1
  (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)
- Vocabulary: Introduction to Animals 1-1
  (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)
- Vocabulary: Introduction to Animals 1-2
  (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-2.pdf)

Lesson Procedure

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Step 3: Guided Practice (10 minutes)

- Work through Vocabulary 1-1 to introduce new terminology and match words like 'heterotroph' and 'hibernation' to their definitions.
  (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)
- Complete Worksheet 1-0 together as a class to identify basic animal traits and environmental survival needs. (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-0.pdf)

Step 4: Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Instruct students to complete Vocabulary 1-2 independently to continue practicing definition matching for terms like 'camouflage' and 'bilateral symmetry'. (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-2.pdf)
- Have students write a short paragraph explaining the difference between an inherited behavior and a learned behavior.

Step 5: Assessment (10 minutes)

- Administer Worksheet 1-1 as a formal assessment to evaluate comprehension of physical adaptations, defense mechanisms, and behaviors. (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)
- Collect the worksheets and quickly review the correct answers to address any lingering questions.

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🎨 **Extension Activities**

- Create a 'Design-An-Animal' project where students invent a new animal, detailing its habitat, diet, and unique physical adaptations for survival.
- Research a migratory animal and map its seasonal journey, explaining how this behavior aids in its survival.

📚 **Complete List of Available Resources:**

- Introduction to Animals (https://newpathworksheets.com/science/grade-4/introduction-to-animals-1)
- Study Guide: Introduction to Animals 1 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/guide/study-guide-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1.pdf)
- Worksheet: Introduction to Animals 1-0 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-0.pdf)
- Worksheet: Introduction to Animals 1-1 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)
- Worksheet: Introduction to Animals 1-2 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-2.pdf)
- Vocabulary: Introduction to Animals 1-1 (https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-4-introduction-to-animals-1-1.pdf)

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INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS

Animals on Earth

Animals have particular body parts and structures to help them survive in their Earth environment. For instance, animals have certain body parts such as legs or wings that help them move, and mouths or trunks or beaks that help them drink water. Animals use their body parts to get what they need to survive from their environment, such as water, food, shelter, and oxygen.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What are two things animals need to survive?

Classifications of Animals

Scientists classify animals into **two major groups**: vertebrates and invertebrates.

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Lesson Checkpoint: What are invertebrates?

Symmetry

Organisms in the animal kingdom with **symmetry** exhibit either **radial** or bilateral symmetry.

✓ **Radial symmetry** is when **two or more lines** can be drawn on the animal and each divides it into **equal** parts.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What is bilateral symmetry?

Adaptations

Animals use certain adaptations in order to survive in their environments. An animal **adaptation** is a trait that helps organisms to survive. Adaptations may include certain body parts, behaviors, sense of eyesight, being poisonous, or even having a terrible odor like a skunk.

Body adaptations are called **physical adaptations**.

✓ An animal uses **camouflage** to protect itself from prey. **Camouflage** means having the appearance of one's surroundings, which makes it difficult to see the camouflaged animal.

✓ Some animals use **mimicry** as a form of defense. **Mimicry** is when a weaker animal purposely looks like a stronger animal. An example of an animal using mimicry as a defense against predators is the viceroy butterfly. **Monarch butterfly** bodies contain a poison. The **viceroy butterfly** is not poisonous, but looks similar to the monarch, so its predators might not realize it is not the poisonous Monarch and thus avoid it.

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Why might an animal use mimicry as a defense against predators?

Behaviors

Inherited behaviors are **not learned** behaviors. They are instincts that animals are born knowing to do.

An inherited behavior is done already on instinct by the offspring. A **spider knowing how to spin a web** when it is born is an example of a inherited behavior.

Learned behaviors, however, are traits that are not inherited or done by instinct. Learned behaviors are behaviors that are **learned by animals** watching other animals, such as their parents. An example of a learned behavior is a lion cub learning how to hunt from its parent.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What is the difference between a learned behavior
and an inherited behavior?
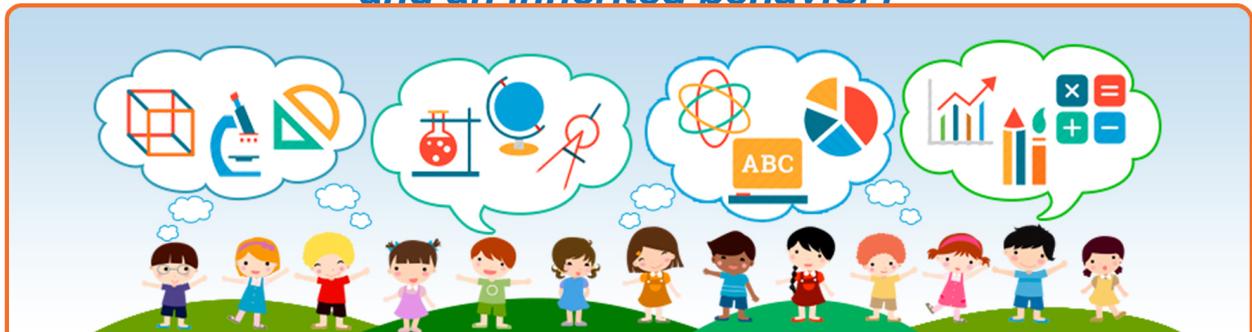
Most animals will eat large amounts of food **before hibernating** in order to nourish their bodies during the winter.

True hibernators remain **totally** inactive for a long period of time, they sleep deeply so they can't be awakened, and their body temperature drops incredibly low.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What is migration?

Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

1 Animals have particular **body parts** and structures which help them **survive**; for example, tigers have **sharp teeth** in order to _____.

A eat the meat of other animals
B drink water
C run fast
D see well at night

2 Animals **need** certain things from their environment **in order to** live such as water, food, shelter, and _____.

A trees
B soil
C oxygen
D rocks

3 Ducks have **webbed feet** that help them swim. This sentence supports which of these statements?

A Animals like water.
B Animals need to drink water.
C Animals have body parts.

4 Scientists classify animals into **two major groups**, _____.

A large and small animals
B mammals and insects
C warm-blooded and cold-blooded

5

7

D land-dwelling animals

9 Organisms in the animal kingdom with **symmetry** exhibit either **radial symmetry** or _____.

A color symmetry
B side symmetry
C round symmetry
D bilateral symmetry

10 When a line can be drawn across an organism in **any way**, and divides it into **two equal parts**, this is called _____.

A radial symmetry
B bilateral symmetry
C color symmetry
D shape symmetry

Sci **D**
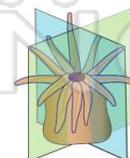
Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

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(A)

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B soil
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(C)

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5
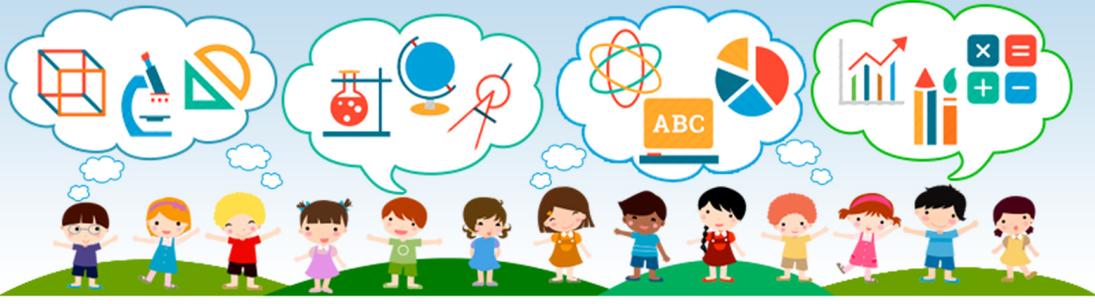
(A)

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7

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Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

1 _____ produces a **mirror image** if a line is drawn through it at one **certain place only**, such as top to bottom.

A Shape symmetry
B Color symmetry
C Radial symmetry
D Bilateral symmetry

2 An animal uses **camouflage** to **protect** itself from prey. What is **camouflage**?

A becoming warm-blooded
B having the appearance of one's surroundings
C having ability to see in dark
D being able to run fast

3 What is an **animal adaptation**?

A an animal's habitat
B an animal's environment
C a trait that helps organisms survive
D an animal's life cycle

**4** **Body adaptations** are a type of physical adaptation.
True or false?

A true
B false

5

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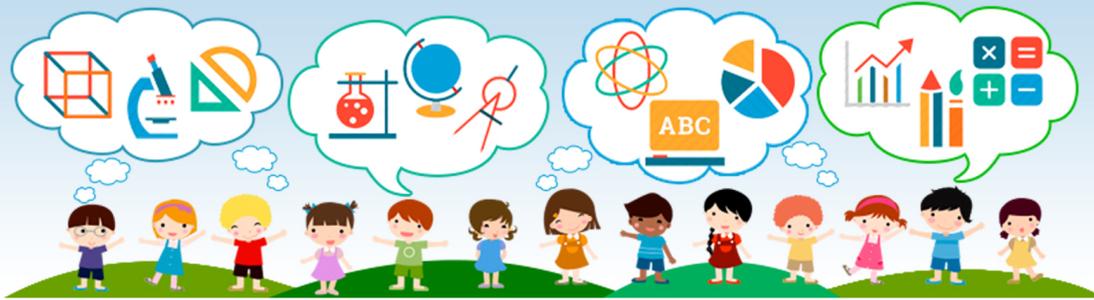
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C animals with no adaptations
D its own self

monarch

B that they should eat it
C that it is a Monarch butterfly
D that it would not hurt them

monarch

9 What **adaptation** does this animal use as a **defense** against anything that might harm it?

A camouflage
B mimicry
C strong smell
D excellent eye sight

10 _____ are **not learned**; they are **instincts** that animals are **born knowing** to do.

A Learned behaviors
B Inherited behaviors
C Taught behaviors
D Watched behaviors

Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

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True or false?

A true
B false

A

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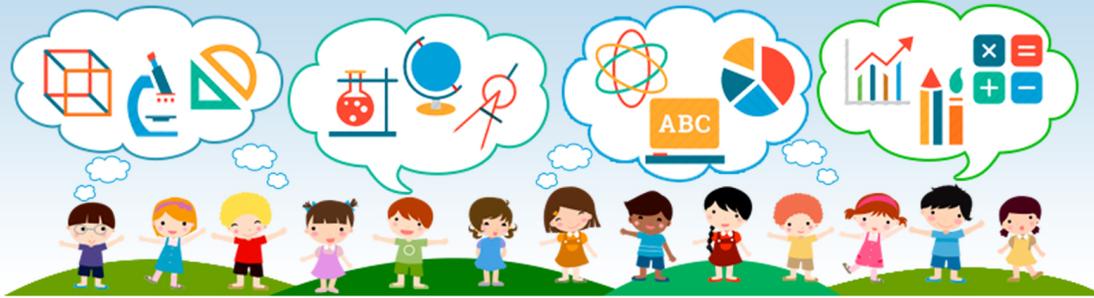
D

7

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C

C animals with no adaptations
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B

Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

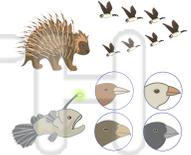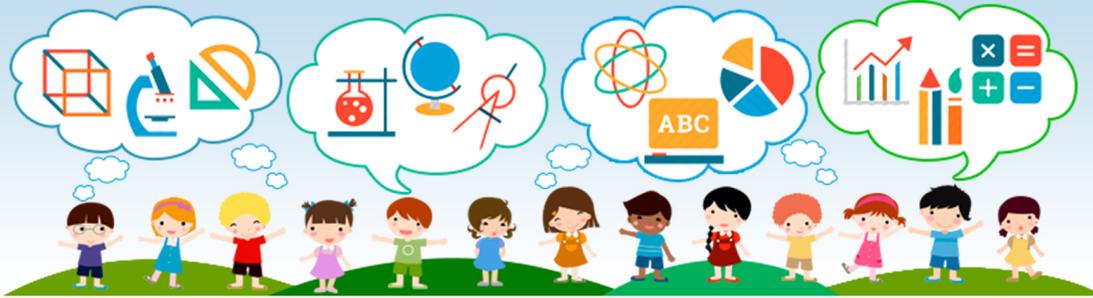| Autotroph | Camouflage | Adaptation | Animal |
| Bilateral symmetry | Angiosperm | Archaebacteria | Algae |

1. _____ - features that help an organism survive in a particular environment

2. _____ - a large and diverse group of simple, plant-like protists ranging from unicellular to multicellular organisms; plant-like protists that contain chloroplasts and are autotrophic

3. around

4. multic

5. scienti have a from c

6. of proc

7. _____ - symmetry produces a mirror image if a line is drawn through it at one certain place only

8. _____ - an adaptation that allows animals to blend in with their surroundings; animals use this adaptation to hide from predators and to sneak up on prey

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Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

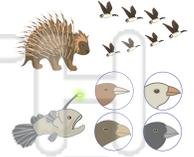| Autotroph	Camouflage	Adaptation	Animal
Bilateral symmetry	Angiosperm	Archaebacteria	Algae

1. adaptation - features that help an organism survive in a particular environment

2. algae - a large and diverse group of simple, plant-like protists ranging from unicellular to multicellular organisms; plant-like protists that contain chloroplasts and are autotrophic

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7. bilateral symmetry - symmetry produces a mirror image if a line is drawn through it at one certain place only

8. camouflage - an adaptation that allows animals to blend in with their surroundings; animals use this adaptation to hide from predators and to sneak up on prey

Introduction to animals

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Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

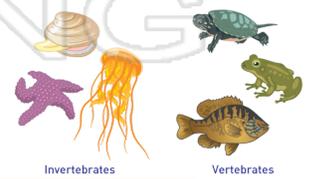| Hyphae	Fungi	Eubacteria	Heterotroph
Hibernation	Camouflage	Classification	Gymnosperm

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1. _____ - an adaptation that allows animals to blend in with their surroundings; animals use this adaptation to hide from predators and to sneak up on prey

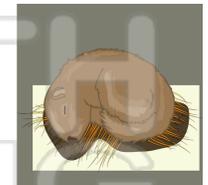**2.** _____ - the process of grouping items together according to their similarities

Invertebrates   Vertebrates

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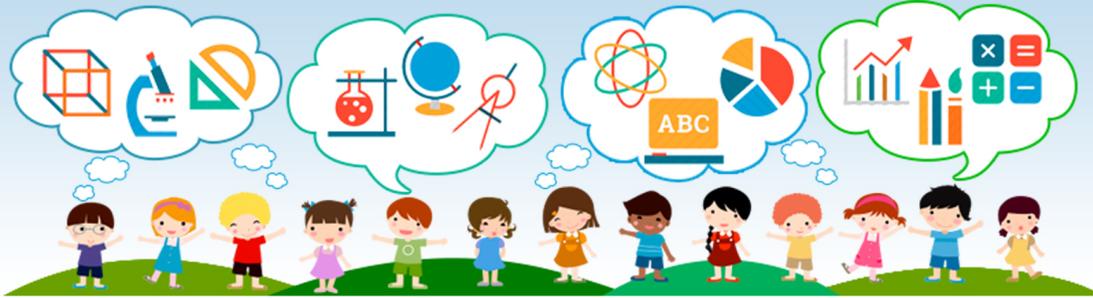
4. organi... from c...

5. protec...

6. own fo...

seeds

7. _____ - the process of an animal going into a deep sleep; during this time the animal's body temperature drops significantly and the animal's breathing and heartbeat slow down

8. _____ - threadlike filaments of branching cells that make up the bodies of multicellular fungi

hyphae

Name_____ Class_____ Date_____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

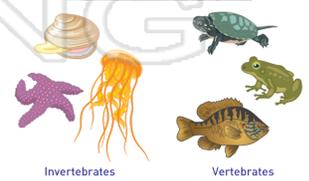| Hyphae	Fungi	Eubacteria	Heterotroph
Hibernation	Camouflage	Classification	Gymnosperm

1. camouflage - an adaptation that allows animals to blend in with their surroundings; animals use this adaptation to hide from predators and to sneak up on prey

2. classification - the process of grouping items together according to their similarities

Invertebrates   Vertebrates

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hyphae