

Name _____

Date _____

Body Parts and Survival

Key Words

adaptation

ecosystem

environment

habitat

pollen

pollinator

predator

prey

protect

reproduce

survive

Every living thing on Earth needs a place to live where its needs can be met in order to thrive and survive. An **ecosystem** is all the living and nonliving parts that interact in an area. An **environment** is the surroundings in which an organism lives. A **habitat** is the specific environment in which an organism lives. If all the needs of an organism are not met in an environment, its survival is in danger.

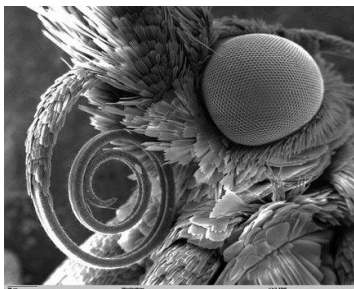
Many plants and animals have special features which allow them to survive in a particular habitat. A fish has gills to obtain oxygen from its watery environment. A frog has a slime coat to keep its skin from drying out. A cactus has special parts that allow it to store water for a period of time. Other plants have colorful, fragrant blossoms to attract insects. All these special parts are **adaptations** that help the organisms survive in their environments.



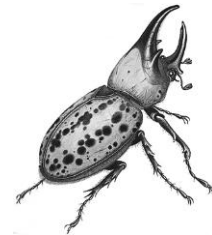
Snakes can live in many different types of habitats. They can be found in the woods, on the prairie, in the water, or even in the desert. Snakes have a dry, thick skin that is covered with scales. This thick skin **protects** the snake's body and keeps it from drying out. Snakes eat other animals. Sharp teeth hold their **prey** (an animal caught and eaten

by another animal). Some snakes make a special poison, called venom, to paralyze or kill their prey. Poisonous snakes have two special teeth called fangs. These fangs inject the poison into their prey.

Birds live in many different types of habitats, also. Some birds, such as penguins, live in very cold areas, while other, such as flamingos, live where it is hot. Birds have many adaptations which help them survive in many different types of conditions. Most birds fly—to catch food and to escape **predators**. A bird's bones are hollow to reduce its weight. Feathers streamline the bird's body shape to make flying easier. Birds' beaks are also an adaptation that enables birds to survive in their particular habitat. Their beaks are adapted for the type of food they eat. For example, birds that eat meat have sharp, hooked beaks to tear apart their prey. Seed-eating birds have thick, short beaks for cracking open the seeds. Insect-eating birds have long, pointy beaks for spearing insects. Some birds that feed in water have mouth parts that act like a filter to strain food out of the water.



Insects are very well adapted to live in nearly any environment. Insects also have specialized mouth parts. A mosquito doesn't really bite; it sticks its sharp mouth part into the victim's skin to get its food—the victim's blood! Butterflies, which drink nectar from flowers, have long, coiled tongues. To eat, they uncoil their tongue and reach deep into the flowers to get the nectar. A grasshopper has really hard mouth parts so they can cut off and chew leaves. In some beetles, these hard mouth parts are adapted so they can be used as a weapon to protect the beetle.



Plants have specialized parts to help them survive in different habitats. Unlike animals, plants cannot move to a different environment. Adaptations provide a way for plants to survive. Cactus plants have modified leaves to reduce the amount of water lost through the leaves. They have thick stems to store water so they can survive in dry climates. Flowering plants **reproduce** by producing seeds. Some plants need insects to spread **pollen** from one plant to another. Some flowers have colors, patterns, fragrances, or all three to guide the insects to the pollen. Many pollinators have fuzzy body parts to collect the pollen. When they visit another flower, some pollen brushes off onto the new plant.

1. What is the meaning of the word *venom* in Paragraph 3?
 - A Scales
 - B Poison
 - C Fangs
 - D Prey

2. Why do many pollinators have fuzzy body parts?
 - A To collect pollen from flowers
 - B To make it easier to fly
 - C To catch and eat prey
 - D To guide them to the pollen

3. In what way are some plants similar to animals? Both plants and animals—
 - A produce their own food using sunlight
 - B can change habitats in order to survive
 - C spend a lot of time searching for prey
 - D have adaptations which help them survive

4. Why do butterflies land on brightly colored flowers in the spring?
 - A To get pollen
 - B To take a nap
 - C To get nectar
 - D To spread seeds

5. What is a pollinator?
 - A Yellow powder in a flower
 - B An insect that spreads pollen
 - C A part of a flower
 - D A thick stem

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
 - A Many plants and animals have special adaptations which allow them to survive in a particular habitat.
 - B A frog has a slime coat to keep its skin from drying out.
 - C A cactus has special parts that allow it to store water for a period of time.
 - D A fish has gills to obtain oxygen from its watery environment.

Wrapping Up Your Reading

Directions: Choose 4 organisms from the reading. Think carefully about what you read. Draw a picture of each of the four organisms. The drawings should show the adaptations that the organism has. In the second column, write a summary of that organism's adaptations. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

Drawing	Summary

adaptation	ecosystem
environment	habitat
pollen	pollinator
predator	prey
protect	reproduce
survive	