

PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

APPLIED SCIENCES

Designed For Students:

Grades 2nd-5th
Ages: 7-11

HELLO EDUCATOR!

Disney Youth Education Series is pleased to be able to provide you with this assessment to gauge your students' progress as they prepare for and complete their Disney Y.E.S. experience.

To encourage creative thinking, open-mindedness, and generate excitement, we suggest that you use the ideas on pages 2 - 5 to help your students prepare for **Principles of Animal Behavior**. Upon your return to school, you might find the ideas on page 6 useful to assess student learning.

These tools are sure to get your students moving in the right direction and help ensure a learning experience that is relevant, inspiring, and thought-provoking!

We look forward to hosting you at the **Walt Disney World®** Resort where iconic settings, imagination, and storytelling come together to create a unique learning environment and life-long memories. See you soon!

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1. Ask the students to choose an animal and consider what it takes for that animal to survive:

- Animals use three things to help them survive:
 - Their Habitat
 - What is special about their habitat?
 - Do they fly, swim, or run?
 - Can they hide?
 - Their physical abilities
 - How do they stay away from predators?
 - How do they defend themselves?
 - What physical traits aid in their survival?
 - What senses do animals use to ensure survival?
 - Their behaviors
 - Instincts - What are some behaviors that your animal is able to do at birth?
 - Breathing
 - Eating
 - Learned behavior - What are some behaviors that your animal will need to learn to do?
 - Hunting/finding food
 - Social behavior (how they interact with members of their own species)

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2. Have the students observe an animal in its own habitat:

- Students should record information on what is observed
 - Species
 - Location
 - Time
 - Behaviors
- Discuss potential reasons for the behaviors observed

3. Have the students research and discuss the concept of extinction:

Threatened status

- African elephant
- Lion

Endangered status

- Black rhinoceros
- Cotton-top tamarin

Extinct status

- Dodo bird
- Carrier pigeon

4. Have students research what steps people can take to help animals survive in the wild:

- What a country can do:
 - Set up wildlife reserves
 - Work with other countries to protect animals that migrate long distances
- What a state can do:
 - Pass laws to stop pollution
 - Create educational materials for schools to use
- What an individual can do:
 - Recycle at home and at school
 - Buy reusable products (like water bottles) instead of one-use items
 - Reduce energy consumption by turning off lights when not in use

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Activity: What's Your Habitat?

Materials:

- Large map of the world
- Paper
- Pencils, markers, etc.

Description:

- In this activity, students will learn and understand the skills and traits animals use in the wild to survive, such as search for food (forage) and defend themselves against predators. They will also discover how an animal's habitat helps it to survive.
- As a class, have the students select a habitat within one continent from the world map (e.g. the Kalahari Desert in Africa, the Great Plains of North America, the Amazon rainforest of South America, etc.).
- Have the class list the characteristics of that habitat (e.g. snowy, desert, tropical rainforest, savannah/grasslands, etc.).
- Ask the class to think of some animals that can be found there.
- If the students do not know what animals can be found in that habitat, they can research more information in their school's resource center or online.
- Either as a class or as individuals, have the students select an animal they wish to represent from that habitat and describe the specifics about that habitat.
 - For example, if the Amazon rainforest in South America was selected, one could say: "There are capybaras in the Amazon. They live close to the riverbanks and ponds."
- Have the students create a list of things (plants, lakes, rivers, other animals, people, etc.) that can be found in their animal's habitat and what it needs to survive.
 - What skills are required to find food? How do their animal's physical traits (camouflage, special skills like flying, swimming, etc.) aid in survival?
 - For example, if your class chose the Amazon rainforest in South America as the habitat, they could list large trees, bushes, vines, the Amazon river, jaguars, macaws, and native people. Capybaras need plenty of plants to eat and hide within. They also need water to dive into to hide from predators.

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Activity (continued):

- Have the students draw their animal in its habitat. They should include the things they listed as being a part of the animal's habitat.
- For higher grade-levels, students can go online and research more information about the animal and its habitat:
 - Is the animal threatened or endangered?
 - What are some current threats the animal is facing?
 - What recommendations would you suggest to local authorities to help your selected animal and/or habitat?
 - What is something you could personally do, wherever you live, to help the animal you selected?

Example animals:

(Af) = Africa, (As) = Asia, (NA) = North America, (Au) = Australia, (SA) = South America

Gorilla (Af)	Lion (Af)	Zebra (Af)
Kangaroo (Au)	Koala (Au)	Dingo (Au)
Nile crocodile (Af)	Macaw (SA)	Greater flamingo (Af)
Wolf (NA)	White tail deer (NA)	Black Bear (NA)
Asian elephant (As)	Panda (As)	Tiger (As)
Lubber grasshopper (NA)	Komodo dragon (As)	Giant centipede (SA)
Amazon River dolphin (SA)	Cotton Top tamarin (SA)	Two-toed sloth (SA)

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At the conclusion of the Disney Youth Education Principles of Animal Behavior experience, have each student do the following:

1. Define what a behavior is.
2. Explain the difference between learned behaviors and instinctual behaviors and give examples of each.
3. Describe avoidance learning and how it relates to animal survival.
4. Discuss the role of predators and prey and their impact on each other in the ecosystem.
5. Name survival behaviors and describe why they are important.
6. Articulate how humans can affect animal survival behaviors.
7. List different ways humans can help animals and/or the environment.