



Animal Behaviour Activity Sheet

1. What is an “instinct”?

2. What are learned behaviours?

3. What are instincts and learned behaviours used for?

4. What is the difference between an instinct and a learned behaviour?

5. What is the difference between an instinct and reflexes?

6. Watch the video on page 8. Why do spiders instinctively build a web?

7. How do animals learn?

8. What type of behaviours do chimpanzees learn?

9. Name some animals that learn to communicate with each other.

10. Why do some animals live in groups?

11. Why do animals have instincts to seek shelter?

12. How do outside changes trigger instincts?

13. What is migration?

14. Watch the video on page 23. Where do wildebeests migrate to?

15. Why do animals hibernate?

ANSWERS:

1. Instincts are inherited knowledge that helps an animal to survive on its own.
2. Learned behaviours are new behaviours learned by animals as they grow.
3. Instincts and learned behaviours are used to survive.
4. Instinctive behaviours are not learned but are decided by the genetic makeup of an organism.
5. A reflex involves some stimulus that causes a response. Such as, shivering when cold.
6. Web building spiders build webs to trap insects for food. If the spider doesn't build a web to trap its food, it will starve.
7. Learned behaviour comes from experience. It is also taught to young animals by older animals.
8. Chimpanzees learn how to use a stick to reach termites and what sounds mean danger.
9. Dolphins, birds, insects (ants, bees and termites), humans.
10. - Help raise and watch over young
 - Learn how to play to defend themselves
 - Help find food and recognise which foods are safe to eat
 - Protection from predators
 - Hunt in groups and catch larger prey.
11. Survival. The behaviour of building a home provides protection from predators and a place to raise young.
12. Outside changes trigger animal instincts which tell them to migrate to find food, create offspring, or avoid harsh weather.
13. Migration is when an animal travels to a new area that offers better living conditions.
14. Wildebeests migrate to areas with more rain.
15. Animals hibernate to survive harsh conditions. For example, bears hibernate during winter when food is hard to find. Some frogs hibernate to avoid dry conditions or extreme cold.