

How an Organism Meets Its Needs

Animals, Plants and Their Habitats Cluster (Lessons 2-9)

Pick an organism that you know something about. Describe how all its needs are met. Be sure to include how any physical or behavioral characteristics help that organism meet its needs.

TEACHER NOTES:

Use this assessment after teaching Lesson 9.

Children can use any of the following organisms:

- Plants
- Animals
- Humans

You can also expand this assessment by having children describe how big the organism's habitat is based on how the organism meets its needs. For example, a human's habitat might reach around the world because it gets some of its food from other countries, or a raccoon's habitat might be as big as a forest, or as small as someone's backyard.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES:

When evaluating children's answers, consider whether they include how the organism meets the following needs:

- Air
- Space
- Protection
- Food
- Water
- Any other survival need your class identified

In addition, check to make certain the children have included descriptions of how any physical or behavioral characteristics help the organism meet its needs.

Read the paragraph below to help you answer questions 9 and 10.

A saguaro cactus stands tall in the Arizona desert. A fruit falls off the cactus and splits apart, covering the sandy floor underneath the cactus with seeds. A ground squirrel scurrying by sees the seeds and stops to eat them. A Gila woodpecker flies overhead, spots the cactus and lands on one of the arms of the cactus. Using its hard, long beak, the woodpecker bores a hole in the cactus to use as a nest. The nest will help keep the woodpecker cool during hot days and warm during cold days.

9. (Lesson 7) Which survival need does the ground squirrel depend on the cactus for?

_____ *food*

10. (Lesson 7) Which statement **best** describes how the Gila woodpecker depends on the cactus for protection?

- a. It lives near the cactus so it can find food to eat.
- b. *It makes a nest inside the cactus for shelter.*
- c. It lives near the cactus so it can find water to drink.

11. (Lesson 8) Which statement **best** describes why a waxy outer coating helps a cactus to survive in its habitat?

- a. It helps hide the cactus from animals that might want to eat it.
- b. It helps protect the cactus from extreme weather.
- c. *It helps trap water inside so very little water evaporates.*

12. (Lesson 8) Which statement **best** describes how spines help a cactus to survive in its habitat?

- a. *They protect the cactus from animals that might eat it.*
- b. They help the cactus absorb more water.
- c. They help the cactus get more food.

13. (Lesson 8) Which statement **best** describes why having a thick shape helps a cactus to survive in its habitat?
- a. The shape helps to hide the cactus from animals that might want to eat it.
 - b. The shape helps the cactus get more food.
 - c. *The shape helps to keep water from evaporating because most of the water stays deep inside the cactus, away from the heat of the sun.*