The animal kingdom

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each animal word.

Word | Behaviour | Diet | Physical feature | Group
]

1 carnivore [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 pack [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 instinct [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 adapt [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 herbivore [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 colony [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 territorial [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 fur ____

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Wolves live in pack together. _____
2 That behaviour is pure of instinct. _____
3 Animals adapt to their environment for survive. _____
4 Herbivores eat only of plants. _____
5 Ants live in large of colonies. _____
6 Some animals are very territorial about of their space. _____
7 Its fur help it survive cold weather. _____
8 Carnivores eat mainly of meat. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For an animal that eats only meat: carnivore / herbivore.
2 For a group of wolves living together: pack / colony.
3 For behaviour that is natural rather than learned: instinct / training.
4 For an animal changing to survive its environment: adapt / remain unchanged.
5 For an animal that eats only plants: herbivore / carnivore.
6 For an animal defending its area from others: territorial / passive.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

adapt | carnivore | colony | fur | herbivore | instinct | pack | territorial

Profile A: Wolves are known to live and hunt in a 1 _____, working together as a strict 2 _____ to catch prey.
Profile B: The panda is a 3 _____ despite belonging to a family of carnivores, surviving almost entirely on bamboo.
Profile C: Bees live in a large 4 _____ and follow strong 5 _____ patterns to find food and protect the queen.
Profile D: Many arctic animals have thick 6 _____ that helped them 7 _____ to extremely cold conditions.
Profile E: Tigers are famously 8 _____, marking and defending large areas of land from rivals.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

How instinct shapes animal behaviour

Much animal behaviour is guided by instinct rather than conscious decision-making, allowing creatures to respond appropriately to danger or opportunity without needing to learn through trial and error. A newborn sea turtle, for example, instinctively moves towards the ocean moments after hatching, without any parental guidance. However, instinct alone does not explain all animal behaviour; many species also adapt their habits based on experience, particularly in complex social animals such as wolves or primates. Researchers increasingly recognise that the balance between instinctive and learned behaviour varies considerably across species, complicating any simple distinction between 'natural' and 'learned' behaviour.

1 What guides much animal behaviour, rather than conscious decision-making? _____
2 What example is given of instinctive behaviour? _____
3 Does instinct alone explain all animal behaviour? _____
4 Which kinds of animals particularly adapt habits based on experience? _____
5 What do researchers increasingly recognise? _____
6 What does this complicate? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 That animal only eats meat. CARNIVORE _____
2 The wolves hunted together as a group. PACK _____

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3 The animal changed to survive in its new environment. ADAPT _____

4 The behaviour was completely natural, not learned. INSTINCT _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how an animal has adapted to survive in its environment. Include specific physical or behavioural features.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Diet 2 Group 3 Behaviour 4 Behaviour 5 Diet 6 Group 7 Behaviour 8 Physical feature

2 Corrections

1 live in a pack together 2 pure instinct 3 to survive 4 eat only plants
5 large colonies 6 territorial about their space 7 helps it survive 8 mainly meat

3 Suitable descriptions

1 carnivore 2 pack 3 instinct 4 adapt 5 herbivore 6 territorial

4 Profiles

1 pack 2 pack 3 herbivore 4 colony 5 instinct 6 fur 7 adapt 8 territorial

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Instinct.
2 A newborn sea turtle instinctively moving towards the ocean after hatching.
3 No.
4 Complex social animals such as wolves or primates.
5 That the balance between instinctive and learned behaviour varies considerably across species.
6 Any simple distinction between 'natural' and 'learned' behaviour.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 That animal is a carnivore. 2 The wolves hunted as a pack.
3 The animal adapted to its new environment. 4 The behaviour was pure instinct.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.