

Title: Animal Defenses

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

blurry	defending	explode	scattered	spray
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1. He got in trouble for fighting, but he was only defending himself.
2. My sister uses a lot of hair spray to keep her hair from moving.
3. I can't watch the movie because my TV screen is blurry.
4. Once it was time to clean up after the party, all my friends scattered.
5. I've eaten so much, I feel like I'm going to explode.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. In this book, the word "flight" means "running away." T / F
2. Many fish are white on top to blend in with sea. T / F
3. Some moths have real eyes on their wings to see behind them. T / F
4. Some lizards will lose a leg to get away from a predator. T / F
5. Big elephants need protection from some insects. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. The (harmless / poisonous) king snake looks like a coral snake.
2. Puffer fish make (noise / themselves bigger) to keep other animals away.
3. There is a kind of insect that looks like (a potato / feces) to keep predators away.
4. Many animals in Africa stay together in (schools / herds) for protection.
5. Kangaroos use their powerful (legs / tails) to keep their balance.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Why do some animals stay close to their homes?
 - a. So they can take care of their babies
 - b. So they can protect their home from other animals
 - c. So they can run to safety if they need to
 - d. So they can hide their food from other animals

2. What does the snowshoe rabbit do to stay safe from predators?
 - a. It only comes out in winter.
 - b. It stays very close to its hole.
 - c. It runs very quickly.
 - d. It changes colors with the seasons.

3. Which color is NOT listed as showing a frog is poisonous?
 - a. Blue
 - b. Green
 - c. Yellow
 - d. Red

4. What do some ants do to protect their colony?
 - a. Make themselves explode
 - b. Give off a bad smell
 - c. Spray ink
 - d. Pretend to be dead

5. When will a prey animal fight instead of flee?
 - a. When a predator animal attacks its home
 - b. When a predator is attacking in a mob
 - c. When a predator animal is feeling scared or weak
 - d. When a predator has the prey animal trapped

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

flee	prey	school	mob	camouflage
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In the wild, many animals face the danger of being eaten by other animals. The animals that do the eating are called predators. The ones worried about being eaten are called prey animals. When animals are worried about being eaten, they usually run away or flee. This can mean just running to their safe home. Other animals, like turtles, carry their homes. Another way animals protect themselves is by using camouflage. This makes it hard for predators to see them. Some animals are poisonous. Others have spines or bad-smelling spray. This keeps animals from wanting to eat them. Animals can also pretend to be dead, or even lose body parts to keep predators from eating them. In places like Africa, many animals move together in herds to stay safe. When fish form a “herd,” it’s called a school. When a prey animal feels trapped, it might fight. Small birds can work together and mob an attacking predator. Some animals have sharp claws and strong legs to fight with.