SCIENCE

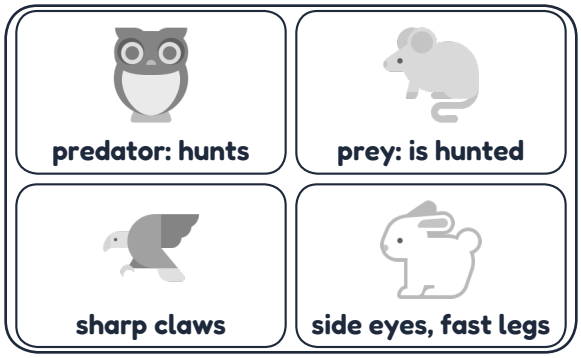
Predators and prey

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain how predators and prey are built to survive.

1 How it works

A predator is an animal that hunts other animals for food, like an owl or a shark. Prey is the animal that gets hunted, like a mouse or a fish. Both have body parts that help them: predators have sharp claws and teeth and eyes that face forward, while prey animals have eyes on the sides, fast legs and colors that help them hide.



2 Predator or prey? Circle one.



fish

predator prey



eagle

predator prey



rabbit

predator prey



zebra

predator prey



sheep

predator prey



shark

predator prey



lion

predator prey



wolf

predator prey

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Built to survive

Name _____ Date _____

I can match a body part to the job it does.

1 How does it help? Draw a line.

 **sharp claws**	○	○	run away from a fox
 **long, fast legs**	○	○	judge how far away prey is
 **stripes**	○	○	blend into the herd
 **sharp teeth**	○	○	bite and tear food
 **eyes facing forward**	○	○	grab and hold prey

2 Fill in the blanks

Use the words in the box.

around	**predator**	**prey**	**prey**

1. An animal that hunts is a _____.
2. An animal that is hunted is _____.
3. Side eyes help a rabbit see all _____.
4. A frog is a predator and also _____.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Think like a scientist

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain how body parts help predators hunt and prey escape.

1 Think about it

1. Why do owls have eyes facing forward? _____
2. How do stripes help a zebra? _____
3. Is a frog a predator or prey? _____
4. What helps a rabbit escape? _____

2 True or false? Circle it.

1. A predator hunts other animals.	**true**	**false**
2. A zebra is a predator.	**true**	**false**
3. Some animals are both predator and prey.	**true**	**false**
4. Predators eat only plants.	**true**	**false**
5. Prey animals often have eyes on the sides of their heads.	**true**	**false**

3 Invent a new animal that is good at hiding from predators. Label its body parts.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Try it: the burrow game

Name _____ Date _____

I can test how shelter helps prey survive.

1 You need

- a big open space
- hoops or chalk circles for burrows
- a timer
- a group of friends
- a pencil and paper

2 What to do

1. One player is the fox. Everyone else is a rabbit.
2. Rabbits are safe inside a burrow, but only for 5 seconds at a time.
3. Play for 1 minute with 1 burrow and count the rabbits tagged. Then play with 3 burrows and with 5.
4. Compare the rounds.

3 I predict

Will more rabbits be tagged with 1 burrow or with 5?

_____

_____

4 What I see

Burrows	Rabbits tagged	Rabbits safe
1		
3		
5		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: predators and prey

1 Page 1

Answers: 1) fish: prey; 2) eagle: predator; 3) rabbit: prey; 4) zebra: prey; 5) sheep: prey; 6) shark: predator; 7) lion: predator; 8) wolf: predator.

2 Page 2

Body parts: 1) sharp claws: grab and hold prey; 2) long, fast legs: run away from a fox; 3) stripes: blend into the herd; 4) sharp teeth: bite and tear food; 5) eyes facing forward: judge how far away prey is.

Blanks: 1) predator; 2) prey; 3) around; 4) prey.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) To judge how far away their prey is; 2) They make one zebra hard to pick out; 3) Both; 4) Long legs, big ears and side eyes.

True or false: 1) true; 2) false; 3) true; 4) false; 5) true.

Drawing: answers will vary. Look for camouflage colors, fast legs, shells or spines, each labeled.

4 Page 4: Try it!

With only 1 burrow, the fox tags many rabbits. With 5 burrows, most rabbits stay safe. Shelter helps prey survive, which is why rabbits live near burrows, fish hide in reeds and mice stay under logs. When a habitat loses its shelter, prey animals are in more danger.

5 Teaching tip

Point out that one animal can be both. A frog is a predator to flies and prey to a snake, which keeps children from sorting animals into good and bad.

Safety: play on soft grass, tag gently and watch where you run.

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