

Chapter 14: Animals and Behavior

Section 2: Animal Behavior

Behavior: how animals move in their environment, how they interact socially, and how they learn about their environment

- Examples include running from enemies, searching for food, battle for territory, or building homes

Innate behavior: behavior that doesn't depend on learning or experience

- Inherited through genes
- Inherited right after birth or develop a few months later
 - Whales know how to swim at birth
 - Humans walk around one year old (some debate)

Learned behavior: behavior that has been learned from experience or from observing other animals

- Humans inherit the tendency to speak
- All animals can learn

Animals avoid being eaten and must find food, water, and a place to live in order to survive.

Predators: animals that eat other animals

Prey: the animal being eaten

Territory: an area that is occupied by one animal or group of animals that do not allow other members of the species to enter

- Animals pee on spots to mark its territory

Defensive behavior allows animals to protect their territories from other animals

- Dogs growl
- Rabbits camouflage with its surrounding or outrun predators
- Skunks spray chemicals at a predator

Courtship: special behaviors that help an animal find a mate

- Remember the videos on bird behaviors

Some animals begin life by taking care of themselves (caterpillars) while others have their mothers take care of them for a while

- Birds feed their young
- Killer whales teach their young how to hunt
- Humans care for their children until 18

Migrate: to travel from one place to another

- Some animals avoid cold weather by traveling to warmer places
 - Example: birds, whales, salmon, bats, and butterflies

Landmarks: fixed objects that an animal uses to find its way

Hibernation: a period of inactivity and decreased body temperature that some animals experience in winter

- Survive on stored body fat
- Temperature, heart rate, and breathing rate drop
- Animals deal with food and water shortages
- Mice, squirrels, skunks, and bears all hibernate

Estivation: a period of reduced activity in the summer

- Similar to hibernation but affects different animals and happens in the summer
- Slowdown in the hottest part of the summer when they run low on water and food

Biological clock: the internal control of an animal's natural cycles

- Use clues, such as day/nights or temperature, to set clock

Circadian rhythms: biological daily cycle

- Waking up and going to bed in an example

Seasonal cycles:

- Many animals hibernate at certain times of the year and reproduce at other times
- Migration patterns are also controlled by seasonal cycles