

## Focus on: Survival of Garden Animals

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Life in Changing Habitats. It can be done during the unit to reinforce lessons, or as a follow up to the unit to increase the retention of information. How you guide your students will depend on the information you have already taught and the information you want to introduce.

### Clarifying Objectives:

4.L.1.2 Explain how animals meet their needs by using behaviors in response to information received from the environment.

4.L.1.4 Explain how differences among animals of the same population sometimes give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing in changing habitats.

### Key Vocabulary:

Definitions can be found at <http://learnersdictionary.com>

- Animal
- Needs
- Behavior
- Response
- Information
- Difference
- Population
- Advantage
- Surviving
- Reproducing
- Habitats

### Focus Question(s):

What characteristics of an animal could make it more likely to survive than other animals of the same species?

### Materials:

School Garden  
Science Notebooks

### Activities:

1. Watch the following video:  
<http://app.discoveryeducation.com/player/view/assetGuid/2186C02E-05D2-4E18-9C40-59774FC8669A>
2. Discuss
3. Visit the garden. Have students locate several animals of the same species to observe – ants, caterpillars, aphids, pill bugs, etc. (Groups of students can observe different animals, but individuals should observe several of the same kind of animal.)

### Guiding Questions:

- What is natural selection? What does it mean?
- In the video, what animals were more likely to survive?
- What characteristics may help an animal to survive?
- In the garden, what characteristics are the same for each animal?
- What characteristics do certain animals have that others do not have?
- Is there anything one of these animals could do that would make it more likely to survive than the others?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Students should record their observations and theories.</li><li>5. Gather students to share their ideas.</li><li>6. Discuss</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What changes in the garden could happen that would cause some of these animals to die while others survived?</li></ul>
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