

Animal Behavior Reading Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by animal behavior?

2. How is behavior adaptive?

3. What is an instinct?

Determine if the following statements are true or false.

- _____ 4. Courtship behavior is something only male animals can instinctively perform.
- _____ 5. Courtship behavior is adaptive because it ensures that members of the same species can recognize each other and mate.
- _____ 6. A territory is a physical space that one animal defends against all other species of animals.

Below are excerpts from the field notebook of a behavioral biologist. Identify the behavioral phenomenon being described in each case.

7.

Field Notes

A large male baboon stares at another male and then suddenly “yawns” to reveal his long, sharp fangs.

Behavior Exhibited:

8.

Field Notes

When a herd of elephants arrives at a waterhole, the oldest female drinks first, followed by three females with calves, and finally a young male.

Behavior Exhibited:

9.

Field Notes

After fighting briefly with an older pack member, a young wolf stops fighting and rolls onto her back with her tail tucked between her legs and her eyes averted.

Behavior Exhibited:

10.

Field Notes

Large numbers of monarch butterflies fly south to roost in the winter.

Behavior Exhibited:

Glue Animal Behavior Practice Tab Here

Answer the following questions.

1. What is learned behavior?

2. What is a major advantage of being able to learn?

Complete the table by checking the correct column for each example.

Example	Type of Behavior	
	Learned	Innate
3. A dog catching a disk		
4. A dog scent-marking a tree with urine		
5. A parrot saying "Polly want a cracker"		
6. A young lioness stalking prey with her mother		
7. A woodchuck going underground to hibernate		

In your textbook, read about habituation, imprinting, and learning by trial and error.

For each item in Column A, write the letter of the matching item in Column B.

Column A	Column B
_____ 8. You stay with relatives who have a clock that chimes every hour. The first two nights, the chimes keep you awake, but after that you no longer notice them.	a. imprinting
_____ 9. A boy receives a day-old duckling as gift. It soon follows the boy wherever he goes.	b. trial-and-error learning
_____ 10. A young woman takes up archery. At first, her arrows don't hit the target, but after a week of practice, she is hitting the bull's eye fifty percent of the time.	c. habituation

Use each of the terms below just once to complete the passage.

behavior communication information innate language
meanings odors pheromones sounds symbols

Through various forms of (11) _____, animals exchange (12) _____ that affects their (13) _____. Animals can communicate with visual signals, by touching each other, and by producing (14) _____, some of which can be heard over great distances. Communicating with (15) _____ is another strategy; (16) _____ are species-specific odor chemicals that can have a powerful effect on behavior. Some types of communication involve both (17) _____ and learned behavior. Human (18) _____ has evolved as a way of communicating with written and spoken (19) _____ that have specific (20) _____.