

Body Structures & Functions

Tallgrass Track with Wildling

Learning target

Explain how a body structure helps an animal survive.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Coverings; limbs; mouths; protection; obtaining food

Open Tallgrass Track - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Body Structures & Functions - key ideas

1. The first clues

Animal structures have functions. Coverings can protect, limbs can support movement, and mouths help obtain and process food.

2. How the clues connect

A shell can provide protection; a sharp beak may help grasp or tear food. A structure can have more than one use.

3. Our evidence record

Our observation shows a turtle pulling vulnerable parts into a shell when threatened. That behavior supports a protective function, not a claim that the shell is food.

Keep the science accurate

Use a few animal groups and evidence. Avoid requiring a full taxonomy or implying every animal has identical senses or parental care.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/4-Is1-molecules-organisms-structures-and-processes>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which structure protects the turtle in our record?

Expected answer: Its shell

Reasoning: A shell can provide protection; a sharp beak may help grasp or tear food. A structure can have more than one use.

2. What can limbs help an animal do?

Expected answer: Move or support its body

Reasoning: Animal structures have functions. Coverings can protect, limbs can support movement, and mouths help obtain and process food.

3. What evidence supports a function?

Expected answer: Observations of how a structure is used

Reasoning: Animal structures have functions. Coverings can protect, limbs can support movement, and mouths help obtain and process food.

4. Can one structure have several functions?

Expected answer: Yes

Reasoning: Animal structures have functions. Coverings can protect, limbs can support movement, and mouths help obtain and process food.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.