

Growth, Reproduction & Survival

Moonlit Burrow Grounds with Wildling

Learning target

Explain how life stages and behaviors support animal survival.



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

Young and adults; offspring needs; life stages; behavior and survival

Open Moonlit Burrow Grounds - 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.



Growth, Reproduction & Survival - key ideas

1. The first clues

Young animals grow and change toward adult stages. Offspring need suitable resources, but their needs and abilities may differ from adults.

2. How the clues connect

Some animals receive much parental care; others receive little or none. A single family example does not describe all animals.

3. Our evidence record

Our records compare a nestling fed by adults and a young turtle finding food without such care. Both need food, but obtain it differently.

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. What do both young animals need?

Expected answer: Food

Reasoning: Our records compare a nestling fed by adults and a young turtle finding food without such care. Both need food, but obtain it differently.

2. Which young animal is fed by adults in our record?

Expected answer: The nestling

Reasoning: Our records compare a nestling fed by adults and a young turtle finding food without such care. Both need food, but obtain it differently.

3. Is parental care identical across animals?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Some animals receive much parental care; others receive little or none. A single family example does not describe all animals.

4. What is a supported comparison?

Expected answer: Needs can be shared while strategies differ

Reasoning: Young animals grow and change toward adult stages. Offspring need suitable resources, but their needs and abilities may differ from adults.

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.