

Behavioral & Seasonal Responses

Iceburrow Ledge with Shiftling

Learning target

Compare behaviors that help organisms cope with conditions.



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

Migration; dormancy; sheltering; activity patterns

Open Iceburrow Ledge - 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.



Behavioral & Seasonal Responses - key ideas

1. The first clues

Animals respond to seasonal changes in different ways. Migration can move animals toward needed resources; dormancy can reduce activity during difficult conditions.

2. How the clues connect

Sheltering and changing activity times can also help. These responses are not the same as instantly evolving new inherited body parts.

3. Our evidence record

Our records show birds moving to a region with food and another animal reducing activity through a cold period. Compare the challenge and response for each.

Keep the science accurate

Organisms do not choose new inherited traits because they need them. Avoid advanced genetics or equating seasonal behavior with instant evolution.

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/3-Is4-biological-evolution-unity-and-diversity>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which response changes location seasonally?

Expected answer: Migration

Reasoning: Animals respond to seasonal changes in different ways. Migration can move animals toward needed resources; dormancy can reduce activity during difficult conditions.

2. Which response reduces activity?

Expected answer: Dormancy

Reasoning: Animals respond to seasonal changes in different ways. Migration can move animals toward needed resources; dormancy can reduce activity during difficult conditions.

3. What do the two responses address?

Expected answer: Seasonal resource or condition changes

Reasoning: Animals respond to seasonal changes in different ways. Migration can move animals toward needed resources; dormancy can reduce activity during difficult conditions.

4. Is a seasonal response instant evolution?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Sheltering and changing activity times can also help. These responses are not the same as instantly evolving new inherited body parts.

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.