

Grade 7 Natural Science Worksheet

Assessment Task: Animal adaptation: reproduction

Courtship in animals

1. Different animals attract mates through various means.
Choose three animals and find out how they go about choosing a mate.
(These behaviours are known as “courtship rituals”.) [6]
2. Give some examples of visible, auditory and chemical signals used by animals. [6]
3. Do humans exhibit courtship rituals or behaviour? Give examples. [5]
4. Describe a pheromone. What is it and what function does it perform in the animal kingdom? [6]
5. Find pictures of animals which are exhibiting courtship displays or features that may be used in courtship. Make a “Courtship Collage” of your pictures. Once you have made your collages, you will discuss how these collages can be assessed. You will reflect on different assessment methods. This will help you understand more about how your work is assessed by your teacher.

[10]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	6	Learners can give any valid examples: Some birds dance ✓ to show elaborate plumage ✓ (feathers). Many male animals e.g. lions, buck, mountain goats, elephants and zebra will duel ✓ by fighting, clawing, biting and clashing heads. ✓ The victor in these duels shows himself to be strong and therefore a worthy mate. Butterflies will fly in upward spirals ✓ along beams of sunlight in the forest until one flies higher than its competitor. He is then acknowledged by the other as the victor in this duel. ✓
2	6	Learners can give any valid examples: Visible signals (e.g. birds' bright plumage; baboons' bright pink buttocks); ✓✓ auditory signals (mating calls e.g. the howler monkey, croaking of frogs) ✓✓ and chemicals (e.g. pheromones) are all used by animals in search of mates (e.g. moths, dogs, etc). ✓✓
3	5	Various answers will apply and be valid: In some cultures courtship rituals are clearly prescribed ✓ and parents must be won over ✓ as much as the person of the suitor's affections. ✓ There is much giving of gifts ✓ (some birds will present a female with coloured pebbles) and subtle touching before a "mate" is won. ✓
4	6	Pheromones are chemicals ✓ that are excreted by glands in the female ✓ animal and that can be sensed by receptor organs in the male ✓ in incredibly low concentrations ✓ and over amazingly large distances. ✓ They signal that the female is ready to mate and reproduce, ✓ thus ensuring the next generation of the animal. ✓
5	10	Mark collage as a peer assessment exercise, comparing the collages and noting worthwhile features from each. Allow the learners to 'rank' the collages (anonymously). Explain to the learners the difference between assessing by the norm (against each other) and assessing by criterion (as in a rubric). Let learners see the merits of both forms of assessment and come to a conclusion about when each of the forms of assessment are valid.