

# Survival Structures

Grade 4 • SCIENCE • Connecting plant and animal structures such as thorns, shells, and camouflage to specific survival functions. • Standards: 4-LS1-1

*Read about each plant or animal structure below. Then explain how that structure helps the organism survive, stay safe, or meet its needs.*

1. A cactus has sharp spines covering its stem. How do these spines help the cactus survive?
2. A turtle has a hard shell on its back and belly. How does this shell help the turtle survive?
3. A rabbit has long back legs that are very strong. How do these legs help the rabbit survive?
4. A hummingbird has a long, thin beak. How does this beak help the hummingbird survive?
5. A stick insect has a body that looks exactly like a brown twig. How does this body shape and color help the stick insect survive?
6. A rose bush has sharp thorns growing on its stems. How do these thorns help the rose bush survive?
7. An arctic fox has white fur during winter. How does this white fur help the arctic fox survive?
8. A porcupine has sharp quills all over its back and tail. How do these quills help the porcupine survive?
9. A water lily has wide, flat leaves that float on the water's surface. How do these flat leaves help the water lily survive?
10. An owl has large eyes that face forward and special feathers with soft edges. How do these two structures work together to help the owl survive?



## Answer Key — Survival Structures

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. The spines protect the cactus from being eaten by animals.
2. The shell protects the turtle from predators and danger.
3. The strong legs help the rabbit jump and run away from predators quickly.
4. The long beak helps the hummingbird reach nectar deep inside flowers for food.
5. The twig-like appearance helps the stick insect hide from predators by blending in with branches.
6. The thorns protect the rose bush by keeping animals from eating its stems and leaves.
7. The white fur helps the fox blend in with the snow so it can hide from danger and sneak up on prey.
8. The sharp quills protect the porcupine by poking predators that try to attack it.
9. The flat leaves help the water lily float and capture sunlight for making food.
10. The large eyes help the owl see prey in the dark, and the soft-edged feathers let it fly silently to catch food without being heard.