

There are two main types of animal behaviors:

(1) those that are learned

(2) those that are instincts.

A learned behavior is something new an organism does after seeing it done. An instinct is a behavior that animals are born knowing; they do not need to be taught

Some examples of instincts are migration (a seasonal movement to another area for food, space or weather reasons), hibernation (a period of low activity when no food can be found), nest building, and symbiosis (animals adapted to helping each other).

Some learned behaviors are communication and avoiding predators.

- Humans instinctively use their voices to communicate (newborn babies cry when they want something), but in order to speak and communicate ideas, they must learn their language.
- Proboscis monkeys can swim (they never learn how to do it), but they must learn ways to cross a crocodile-infested river safely.



Behavioral Adaptations

Behavioral adaptations

Behavioral adaptations are the things organisms do to survive. For example, bird calls and migration are behavioral adaptations. Behavior adaptations can be learned or instinctive (a behavior an animal is born with).

1. Social behavior - some animals live by themselves, while other live in groups.
2. Behavior for protection - An animal's behavior sometimes helps to protect the animal. For instance the opossum plays dead. A rabbit freezes when it thinks it has been seen.
3. What an animal is able to eat
4. How an animal moves



Migration is the behavioral adaptation that

involves an animal or group of animals moving from one region to another and then back again.

Animals migrate for different reasons. The reasons are as follows.

- better climate
- better food
- safe place to live
- safe place to raise young
- go back to the place they were born.

Grey whales **migrate** thousands of miles every year as they swim from the cold Arctic Ocean to the warm waters off the coast of Mexico. Grey whale calves are born in the warm water, and then travel in groups called pods to the nutrient-rich waters of the Arctic.

Hibernation

Some animals hibernate for part or all of the winter. This is a special, very deep sleep. The animal's body temperature drops, and its heartbeat and breathing slow down. It uses very little energy.

In the fall, these animals get ready for winter by eating extra food and storing it as body fat. They use this fat for energy while hibernating. Some also store food like nuts or acorns to eat later in the winter. Bears, skunks, chipmunks, and some bats hibernate