



SCIENCE • GRADE 3

California Content Standards

Life Sciences: 3.A

Life Sciences: 3.B

Above Level

Adapting to Environments

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•
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Student Book

•
Reproducible
English-language
Arts Activities

Adapting to Environments

California's Science Content Standards Met

GRADE 3 SCIENCE

LIFE SCIENCES: 3—Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. As a basis for understanding this concept:

- a. Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction.
- b. Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments, such as oceans, deserts, tundra, forests, grasslands, and wetlands.

GRADE 3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

1.0 WORD ANALYSIS, FLUENCY, AND SYSTEMATIC VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Vocabulary and Concept Development 1.4—Use knowledge of antonyms, synonyms, homophones, and homographs to determine the meanings of words.

Vocabulary and Concept Development 1.8—Use knowledge of prefixes (e.g., un-, re-, pre-, bi, mis-, dis-) and suffixes (e.g., -er, -est, -ful) to determine the meaning of words.

2.0 READING COMPREHENSION

Structural Features of Informational Materials 2.1—Use titles, tables of contents, chapter headings, glossaries, and indexes to locate information in text.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text 2.4—Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.

Above Level



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Student Book

Adapting to Environments

Print pages 5 – 18 of this PDF for the student book.

How to Make the Student Book

- The student book is contained on pages 5–18 of this PDF. It begins on the next page.
- To make one student book, or a two-sided master copy that can be photocopied, you will print on both sides of seven sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper.
- Do a test printout of one book first to familiarize yourself with the procedure.
- Follow these instructions carefully.

First—Select the Paper

Since you will be printing on both sides of the sheets of paper, select a good quality white paper. We recommend using at least a 22lb sheet.

Second—Check Printer Settings

Be sure you have the correct page setup settings for your computer and printer. You will print these pages in landscape format.

Third—Print EVEN Pages

Open the PDF of the book you want to print. Select print from your file menu. In your printer's dialogue box enter pages 5–18 to print. Then select EVEN pages only. It is important to print only the EVEN pages first. Click "Print" to print the even pages. (**Important note:** The first page that prints will be blank. DO NOT discard this page. It will be needed to print the cover in the next step.)

Forth—Print ODD Pages

When the even pages have printed, flip the stack of pages over to print the odd pages. Place the stack back in your printer. Select print from the file menu again. In your printer's dialogue box, select ODD pages. Click "Print" to print the odd the pages.

Fifth—Fold the Book

You now have a complete book. Check to be sure the pages are in the correct order with the book's cover as the top page. Then fold the stack of paper in half.

Sixth—Staple the Book

Use an extended-length stapler to staple the pages together. Place three staples in the spine of the book.

Please note that printers vary in how they output pages. Do a test printing with one book and adjust the procedure as necessary.

If you want to make a one-sided master copy, print ALL pages 5–18 at once. Then select "one-sided to two-sided" on the copy machine.

Adapting to Environments California's Science Content Standards Met

AL

GRADE 3 SCIENCE

LIFE SCIENCES: 3—Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. As a basis for understanding this concept:

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Adapting to Environments

by Linda Barr





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INTRODUCTION

Living in a Habitat

Your neighborhood is your **habitat**. It's the place where you live. You have learned how to meet your basic needs in your habitat. You and every other animal need water, energy from food, and oxygen from the air. You also need space to move about and shelter from the weather and from other animals.

Earth has many types of environments. You'll read about many of them in this book. You'll also learn about the plants and animals that live in each habitat or biome. They have found ways to meet their needs, no matter how hot, cold, wet, or dry their habitat is.

As you read, think about how you meet your needs in your own habitat!

habitat: the place where an animal lives and has its needs met

CHAPTER 1

Types of Habitats

Deserts

Deserts are the driest, hottest habitats on Earth. It almost never rains there. The temperature can rise above 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius) during the day. At night, it drops to nearly freezing. Desert plants and animals must be able to live with very little water. The plants include many kinds of cactus, along with tough bushes, such as the creosote.

Desert animals get much of their water from the plants and seeds they eat. Some of these animals dig **burrows** and sleep in them all day. At night, they come out to look for food. In the desert you might find mice, squirrels, foxes, and birds. There may also be bats, lizards, snakes, and insects.

California's deserts include the Mojave, the Colorado, and Death Valley.

burrows: holes or tunnels dug into the ground by an animal

Grasslands

Grasslands receive more rain than deserts, but less than most other habitats. Summers are warm. Winters can be cold and snowy.

Grasslands are too dry for trees. Most of the plants are grasses. The animals are grass-eaters, such as bison in the United States. Zebras and kangaroos live on grasslands in other countries. This habitat also includes animals that eat grass-eaters, such as hawks and cheetahs.

In North America, grasslands are also called prairies. In Africa, they are called savannas. In Asia, they are called steppes.

Much of California's grasslands are now used for farms or towns. Many of the plants that first grew in these grasslands have been replaced by plants from other places. Some of these plants were brought here by the Spaniards long ago.

How does the amount of rainfall affect the plants in each habitat?

Forests

Deciduous

Oak, maple, elm, beech, and sycamore trees grow in deciduous forests. Most of them lose their leaves every fall. These forests have warm summers and cold winters. The animals here include deer, bears, foxes, hawks, snakes, squirrels, and many insects.

Evergreen

Evergreen forests include pine, hemlock, spruce, and fir trees. Their needles stay green all year. Summers here are warm or cool, and winters are very cold. Moose, beavers, owls, and rabbits live here.

Rain Forests

Rain forests are always warm and wet. More kinds of living things are found here than in any other habitat. The plants include tall trees and vines. In the trees are monkeys, birds, snakes, insects, and many other animals.

California has all three kinds of forests. The rain forests along our coast receive less rain than those closer to the equator.

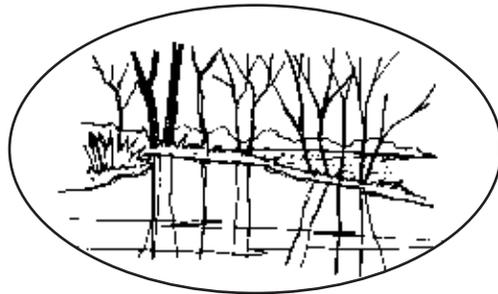
What kind of forest grows closest to your home?

Wetlands and Marshes

You can find wetlands and marshes near rivers, lakes, and the ocean. They are also called swamps and bogs. Wetlands are covered with shallow water all or part of the time. During heavy rainstorms, they help prevent flooding, soaking up the extra water like a sponge. Wetlands also help clean pollution out of water.

Many birds, frogs, and fish lay their eggs in wetlands. In fact, most of the fish in the United States were born in wetlands. Other animals here include turtles, ducks, otters, muskrats, and raccoons. Wetland plants are mostly grasses and bushes. Few trees can live with their roots under water.

Many wetlands in California and other states were drained and filled in so houses could be built on the land.



How is a wetland different from a river?

Tundra

The tundra is Earth's coldest climate. Its summers are cool and short, with little rain. Only a few small plants can grow there. Tundra animals include caribou, rabbits, squirrels, goats, sheep, foxes, wolves, and bears. When summer arrives, so do many birds and insects. They leave again when the temperatures begin to drop.

As you might have guessed, California has no tundra!

Few trees grow on the tundra. Trees are not able to send roots into the frozen ground.



Oceans

The oceans are Earth's largest habitat. Millions of tiny plant-like organisms float on the ocean water. They produce much of the oxygen you breathe. Seaweed grows on the ocean floor near the shore. No plants grow in the deepest, darkest, coldest part of the ocean. The ocean has fish of all sizes, of course. It also has air-breathing animals such as whales and dolphins.

Ways That Plants Survive

Adapting to Climate

Plants must adapt to the climate where they live. They must find ways to meet their needs in very cold, hot, dry, or wet climates. Plants survive in the windy tundra by growing low to the ground. The plants there tend to be small because the ground is frozen year around and the weather is windy. The soil is rocky with few nutrients. During the short growing season, the sun never sets and the plants often grow very quickly during this very short period.

Whenever it rains, desert plants quickly soak up all the available water. They store it in their leaves, stems, and roots. To reduce water loss, many cactus plants have needles, not wide leaves. Because they have less leaf surface, these plants must use cells in their stems to produce energy. Most desert plants have a waxy surface that helps slow water **evaporation**.

evaporation: the process of a liquid changing into a vapor or gas

The rain forest has plenty of water and warmth. Yet even there, plants must struggle to survive. This forest has a thin layer of soil. Plant leaves decay there, turning into nutrients to help more plants grow. Yet daily rains wash most of these nutrients out of the soil. Rain forest plants must quickly soak up the nutrients before they are gone.

Few plants can survive on the floor of the rain forest. The trees grow so close together that they block sunlight from reaching the forest floor. To get enough sunlight, plants grow very wide leaves. Vines climb up tree trunks to reach the light.

Logging is a big threat to rain forests. The trees are cut for wood or to clear land for farms. They cannot defend themselves against this threat.

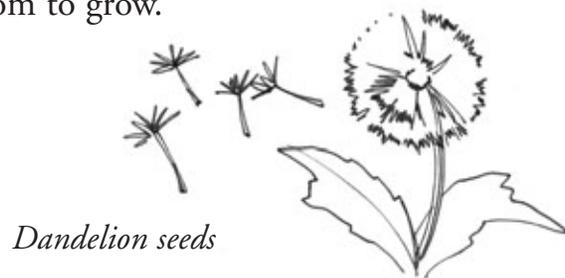


Adapting for Reproduction

To survive, most plants produce seeds. The seeds wait until there is enough warmth and moisture to allow seedlings to grow. When the conditions are right, the seeds sprout. For example, the seeds of desert plants sprout after a rare rainstorm. Then they grow quickly. They must produce more seeds before the desert's heat and dryness kills them.

Many flowers are brightly colored and produce **nectar** to attract birds and insects. As they move from flower to flower, they spread the **pollen** that plants need to produce seeds.

Dandelion seeds have “wings” that carry them away from the parent plant. Some seeds stick to passing animals and people. In these ways, the seeds are carried to places where they will have more room to grow.



nectar: a sweet liquid produced by some flowering plants
pollen: a fine powder produced by flowers that fertilizes other flowers of the same kind

CHAPTER 3

Ways That Animals Survive

Body Coverings

Body coverings help animals in many ways. For example, many animals that live in cold climates, such as moose, have one or two layers of thick fur. Walrus and seals have a thick layer of fat under their fur to help them keep their body heat.

Birds often fluff up their feathers to trap air. Their bodies warm the trapped air, which then helps keep the birds warm.

Animals living in the desert must survive with very little water. The scales covering snakes and lizards help keep the water in their bodies.

Body covering also helps hide animals from **predators**. Many birds and insects are green or brown. They blend in with their surroundings. That makes it harder for hawks and other predators to spot them.

predator: an animal that eats other animals such as a lion, wolf, or hawk

Wolves and many other predators are colored like their surroundings. That makes it harder for their **prey** to see them coming.

A hard body covering protects some animals. An armadillo is covered with bony plates. Porcupines have sharp quills. A turtle can pull its head and legs inside its hard shell. Insects, snails, clams, lobsters, and many other animals also have shells or hard body coverings.

Body coverings make some animals look like other animals. The monarch butterfly tastes bad to birds, but the viceroy butterfly tastes good. However, a viceroy looks like a monarch. Birds cannot tell them apart, so they learn not to eat either kind.

An insect's shape can fool predators, too. For example, the walking stick insect looks much like a twig.



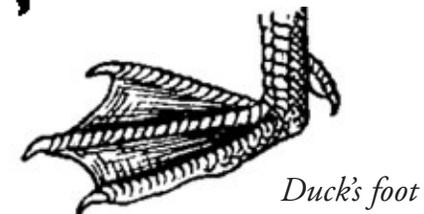
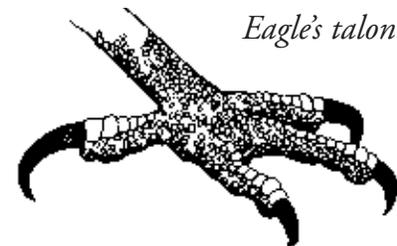
prey: an animal that is eaten by other animals such as a mouse, rabbit, or bird

Body Parts

Both prey and predators have body parts that help them survive. Flippers help whales and sea lions dive deep into the water. Webbed feet help frogs and ducks swim fast. Long toes help birds hold on to tree branches. Monkeys use their hands and feet to swing from branch to branch.

Special hooves help bighorn sheep scramble up mountain cliffs. Large back legs help rabbits and kangaroos out-hop their predators.

The giraffe's long neck and tongue allow it to eat leaves that are out of reach for other plant-eaters. Elephants use their trunks to grab food. Anteaters use their long, sticky tongues to capture ants.



Sharp eyesight helps many predators find food. It also helps prey see those predators. Many animals can hear really high or really low sounds. People cannot hear these sounds. For example, mice can hear the whoosh of a hawk's wings. The hawk can hear the mice as they try to scamper away.

Some animals can feel prey or predators getting closer. For example, ants can feel movement through two inches of soil. Hairs on grasshoppers help them feel movement in the air. Hairs on crabs help them feel movement in the water.

Claws and teeth help animals protect themselves and eat their food. Wolves have sharp teeth for catching and eating their prey. Cows have strong, flat teeth for grinding up tough grasses.

Sharks have super-sharp teeth that fall out easily. Then they grow new ones. One shark might have 20,000 teeth during its life. As you see on the next page, birds have many different kinds of beaks. That's because they eat different kinds of food.

How do your eyes, ears, and teeth help you survive?

Beaks and Bills

Eagle

Eagles and hawks have strong, sharp beaks. These beaks help them catch and eat small prey.



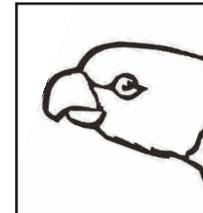
Woodpecker

Woodpeckers and many other birds eat insects. They need pointed beaks to reach the bugs crawling under tree bark.



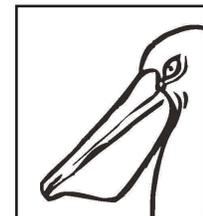
Parrot

The parrot's strong, curved bill helps it open seeds and nuts.



Pelican

Pelicans store fish in their large bills so they can feed their babies.



A scientist finds a new kind of bird. Why must this scientist describe the bird's beak very carefully?

Behaviors

Thick fur allows some animals to survive the coldest weather. However, other animals must change their behavior to survive. As falls turns into winter, the plants or animals they eat become hard to find. They also cannot keep their bodies warm enough in icy weather, so they **migrate** south, to a warmer place. Many kinds of birds migrate. Whales and other animals migrate partly to have their babies in warm places. Then they and the babies head north again.

Some animals survive winter by sleeping through it. First, they eat a lot of food to store fat in their bodies. Next, they find a safe place, such as a hole in a tree or in the ground. Then they go into a deep sleep.

What types of investigations do you think scientists use to learn about the migration of whales?

migrate: to travel from one place to another and back again in order to survive changing weather conditions

As an animal **hibernates**, its heart slows way down. Its body gets cooler, just above freezing. It breathes less often. It uses energy from the stored fat to stay alive.

Hibernators include certain mice, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and bats. They must hibernate, or they will starve or freeze to death.

Some animals seem to hibernate. Instead, they go **dormant**. Most bears crawl into a den, and frogs dig into the mud. Some snakes crawl under rocks. While animals are dormant, their bodies slow down and cool off, but not as much as hibernating animals. Dormant animals wake up once in a while. They might move around and eat on warm days. Going dormant also helps some animals survive the hottest, driest weather on the desert.

What is the difference between hibernating and being dormant? Why don't all animals hibernate during the winter?

hibernate: to go into a very deep sleep-like state for a long while
dormant: a state of being alive but not moving or growing

You know that body coverings help animals **camouflage** themselves, or blend in with their surroundings. Behaviors help them blend in, too. For example, chameleons can change color. Their skin has four colors of “paint” in it—red, yellow, blue, and white. Let’s say a brown chameleon rests on a green leaf. The yellow cells in its skin grow larger than the blue cells under them. This turns the chameleon green. It can change color in 20 seconds!

Other animals hide by standing still. Then many predators do not see them. Opossums and many kinds of snakes pretend to be dead. They lie very still. They let their mouths fall open and do not move. After the predator leaves, the animal quickly hurries to safety.

What is an animal’s risk of pretending to be dead?

camouflage: to disguise in order to hide

Many animals survive by fighting their predators. Many of them use their teeth, claws, wings, or feet. Sheep and goats use their horns, while moose and elk use their antlers. Some animals, such as wasps and jellyfish, sting. Others, such as skunks, weasels, and some snakes, use smell to chase predators away. Porcupines can shoot their quills at predators.

Some animals, such as the puffer fish, make themselves look larger to scare off predators. Others make a lot of noise. Have you ever heard two cats fight? They are using noise to try to scare each other.

Like you, animals must meet their basic needs, or they will not survive. Like you, they use their body parts and behaviors to stay alive.



Moose use their antlers to defend themselves.

Glossary

burrows—holes or tunnels dug into the ground by an animal

camouflage—to disguise in order to hide

dormant—a state of being alive but not moving or growing

evaporation—the process of a liquid changing into a vapor or gas

habitat—the place where an animal lives and has its needs met

hibernate—to go into a very deep sleep-like state for a long while

migrate—to travel from one place to another and back again in order to survive changing weather conditions

nectar—a sweet liquid produced by some flowering plants

pollen—a fine powder produced by flowers that fertilizes other flowers of the same kind

predator—an animal that eats other animals such as a lion, wolf, or hawk

prey—an animal that is eaten by other animals such as a mouse, rabbit, or bird

To Find Out More . . .

Want to learn more about different habitats and how animals survive in them?

Try these books

Animal Habitats by Michael Chinery. Southwater, 2004.

The Arctic Habitat by Molly Aloian and Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree, 2006.

Claws, Coats, and Camouflage by Susan E. Goodman. Millbrook Press, 2001.

A Desert Habitat by Kelley Macaulay and Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree, 2006.

A Forest Habitat by Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree, 2006.

A Rainforest Habitat by Molly Aloian and Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree, 2006.

What Are Camouflage and Mimicry? by Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree, 2001.

Access these Web sites

What's It Like Where You Live?
www.mbgnet.net/sets/temp/index.htm

Learn about different habitats
www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/habitats

Amazing Animal Senses
<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/amaze.html>

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ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS • GRADE 3

| |
|---|
| California Content Standards |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development: 1.4 |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development: 1.8 |
| Structural Features of Informational Materials: 2.1 |
| Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: 2.4 |

Above Level

English-language Arts Activities

Adapting to Environments

Print pages 20–24 of this PDF for the reading activities.

Prefixes

TRY THE SKILL

Prefixes are groups of letters that are added to the beginning of a base word. They change the meaning of the word. Here are three common prefixes that you must know.

un- meaning “not”: unsure, unhappy, uncover

re- meaning “again”: replace, reproduce, return

pre- meaning “before”: prefix, prepare, prevent

Understanding these prefixes can help you figure out the meanings of new words. To practice, read each definition. Then shade the circle next to the word that matches it. Pay attention to the prefixes.

1. To make up your mind before you have all the information you need
 - Ⓐ prejudice
 - Ⓑ retrieve
 - Ⓒ unnecessary
 - Ⓓ regret

2. Remembering something that happened in the past and feeling sad about it
 - Ⓐ retrieve
 - Ⓑ prejudice
 - Ⓒ undecided
 - Ⓓ regret
3. Something that is extra and not required
 - Ⓐ regret
 - Ⓑ undecided
 - Ⓒ unnecessary
 - Ⓓ retrieve

Think of more words that use the prefixes *un-*, *re-*, and *pre-*. Write them on the lines. Use a dictionary for help.

Homographs

TRY THE SKILL

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but have different meanings. Sometimes they also have different pronunciations.

For example, with the accent on the first syllable, *desert* means “a hot, dry habitat.” However, with the accent on the second syllable, *desert* means “to abandon.”

If a sentence includes a homograph, use context clues to decide which meaning is being used.

Read each sentence and find the underlined word. Then read the two meanings of that word. Shade the circle next to the meaning that is used in the sentence.

1. In the winter, deciduous trees rest.

- (A) sleep
- (B) what's left

2. After the first settlers cleared land for their farms, little forest land was left.

- (A) the opposite of right
- (B) remaining

3. Some rivers wind through dry habitats.

- (A) blowing air
- (B) wrap around

4. Fast-moving rivers bear minerals into the ocean.

- (A) large animal
- (B) to carry

5. Many wetlands lie along rivers.

- (A) rest
- (B) something that is not true

Locate Information

TRY THE SKILL

Nonfiction books, such as this one, begin with a table of contents. This table lists the titles of the chapters. The titles tell you which topics the book covers.

Look at the table of contents of this book. It tells you the topics covered in the book. You see that one chapter describes ways that plants survive. The next chapter describes ways that animals survive. The chapter titles are followed by subheadings. These subheadings tell more about what each chapter covers. Chapter 1, for instance, describes deserts, grassland, forests, wetlands, tundra, and oceans.

Study this table of contents from a book about giraffes. Then answer the questions.

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Chapter 1: What Giraffes Look Like | 4 |
| Height and Weight | 5 |
| Patterns of Spots | 7 |
| Chapter 2: Where Giraffes Live | 9 |
| Chapter 3: How Giraffes Form Families | 14 |
| Finding Mates | 16 |
| Taking Care of Babies | 18 |
| Chapter 4: How Giraffes Protect Themselves | 22 |
| Chapter 5: How People Are Helping to Protect Giraffes | 24 |

1. Which of these is not a main topic in this book?
 - Ⓐ Where giraffes live
 - Ⓑ How giraffes form families
 - Ⓒ Taking care of babies
 - Ⓓ How giraffes protect themselves
2. Which chapter tells whether you should expect to see giraffes in Africa?
 - Ⓐ 1
 - Ⓑ 2
 - Ⓒ 3
 - Ⓓ 4
3. Which chapter tells about giraffes' predators?
 - Ⓐ 2
 - Ⓑ 3
 - Ⓒ 4
 - Ⓓ 5

Predict Outcomes

TRY THE SKILL

You can use the facts you read to make predictions. Try to predict what will happen next in your reading and then see if you were correct.

In this book you read how plants adapt to their habitat. Let's say that some cactus seeds sprout on a hot, dry day. It does not rain for a month. Predict what will happen to these cactus seedlings.

They might dry up and die.

Predict what will happen to this kind of cactus.

None of its seedlings will live. This kind of cactus might soon disappear from the desert.

Read about each plant or animal. Then shade in the letter that correctly predicts what will happen to it.

1. A tiger cub is born with white fur instead of orange and black stripes. This white tiger—
 - Ⓐ will migrate to a snowy habitat so it can blend in.
 - Ⓑ may not survive because it will have trouble sneaking up on its prey.
 - Ⓒ may not survive because its predators can easily see it.

2. Seeds from a small grassland plant sprout on the rain forest floor. Predict what will happen to this plant.
 - Ⓐ It will grow quickly in the rich soil there.
 - Ⓑ It will grow twice as big with so much warmth and water.
 - Ⓒ It will not receive enough sunlight to survive.
3. One year, the fall is very warm. A group of birds waits to start its migration to the south. All of a sudden, winter brings icy temperatures and a heavy snowstorm. Predict how this change will affect the birds.
 - Ⓐ The birds will survive because they have stored enough food to last through the winter.
 - Ⓑ The birds may starve before they can reach a warmer habitat.
 - Ⓒ The birds will hibernate instead of migrating.

Answer Key

Prefixes

1. A
2. D
3. C

Homographs

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. A

Locate Information

1. B
2. C
3. B

Predict Outcomes

1. B
2. C
3. B