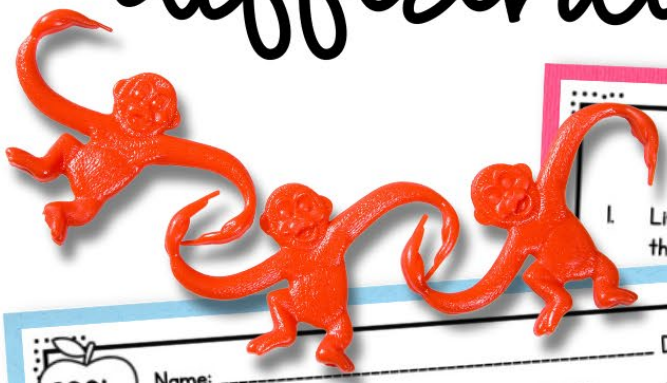
ANIMAL GROUPS

differentiated passages

LEXILE



830L

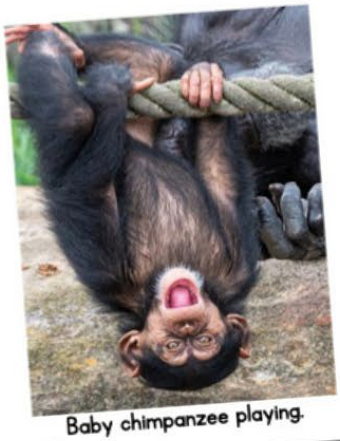
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A Shrewdness of Great Apes

Great apes are mammals called primates. Traits such as a large brain compared to body size, fingers and toes that can grip, and forward-facing eyes set primates apart from other mammals. Gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, and bonobos are all great apes. Like many animals, great apes take advantage of group life. A group of great apes is called a shrewdness. Great apes are very social. Their social activity helps them in many ways.



Living in a group lowers the risk of becoming a victim. In social groups, more individuals are looking out for predators. These predators will be spotted quickly. The larger the group, the lower the chance for each individual to become prey. Group members also have the advantage of being able to work as a team to drive away predators. A single individual would have more trouble accomplishing that alone.



Baby chimpanzee playing.

Great apes in a shrewdness are better able to get food. Many members are searching for food at the same time. Food is more likely to be found when more eyes are looking for it. Communication within the group alerts members about where to find food. Once food is located, a group has an easier time defending that food against competitors. Again, the larger the group, the better the outcome.

A Shrewdness of Great Apes Questions

1. Living in a group has many effects on great ape survival. Fill in the chart below to show the effects [illegible] survival.

Effect
Effect
Effect
Effect

[illegible] in th[illegible] low. [illegible]od

[illegible] that great apes survive better in groups.





Magi CORE

3rd Grade NGSS 3-LS2-1

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

Animal Groups

3rd grade

Table of Contents

1. How to Use This Resource
2. Elephant Herds (530L, 790L)
3. Dolphin Pods (490L, 790L)
4. A Shrewdness of Great Apes (520L, 820L)
5. Wolf Packs (490L, 760L)
6. Ant Colonies (530L, 790L)
7. Penguin Colonies (520L, 770L)

Each passage set includes two differentiated passages on a third-grade level (one at the beginning of the band, one towards the end) and a question set geared towards comprehension and science mastery. The first question is differentiated to include a fill-in-the-blank diagram (lower complexity) or an open-ended diagram (higher complexity).

How to Use This Resource

This resource was created with the NGSS Science Standards in mind. It includes six differentiated passages aligned to the following standard:

3-LS2-1: Animal Groups

Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive. (Cause and Effect)

Clarification Statement: None.

Assessment Boundary: None.

Here are some suggestions for using these passages:

- Use as independent work after you have taught an overview of this standard. Assign the different levels based on the passage students can read and comprehend independently.
- Use as a reading center to reinforce key comprehension and science concepts at the same time!
- Use as a homework or review packet.
- Use as an intervention for students who need to revisit science concepts.

530L

Name: _____ Date: _____

Elephant Herds

The largest living land animal is the elephant. They live in forests and grasslands. Elephants travel in small family groups. These groups have 2-8 elephants in them. They are led by a female. This female is called the **matriarch**. The groups have females and young elephants. A herd is formed when these smaller groups join together.



A herd of elephants traveling.

Herds have many purposes. **Members** of the herd help raise babies. Females only give birth to one calf at a time. Each one is important. This is because elephants are **endangered**. Humans have destroyed many elephant habitats. They have killed elephants. Humans kill them to take their ivory tusks. Every elephant that is born keeps this **species** alive. The herd works together to care for baby elephants. This gives them a better chance of becoming adults.



A baby elephant and its mother.

Elephant herds are true families. The elephants talk to each other. They use calls and rumbles. They also support each other. Members of the herd will help injured elephants. The herd will also slow down for older members. They will slow down if one is injured. The herd is sad when a member dies.

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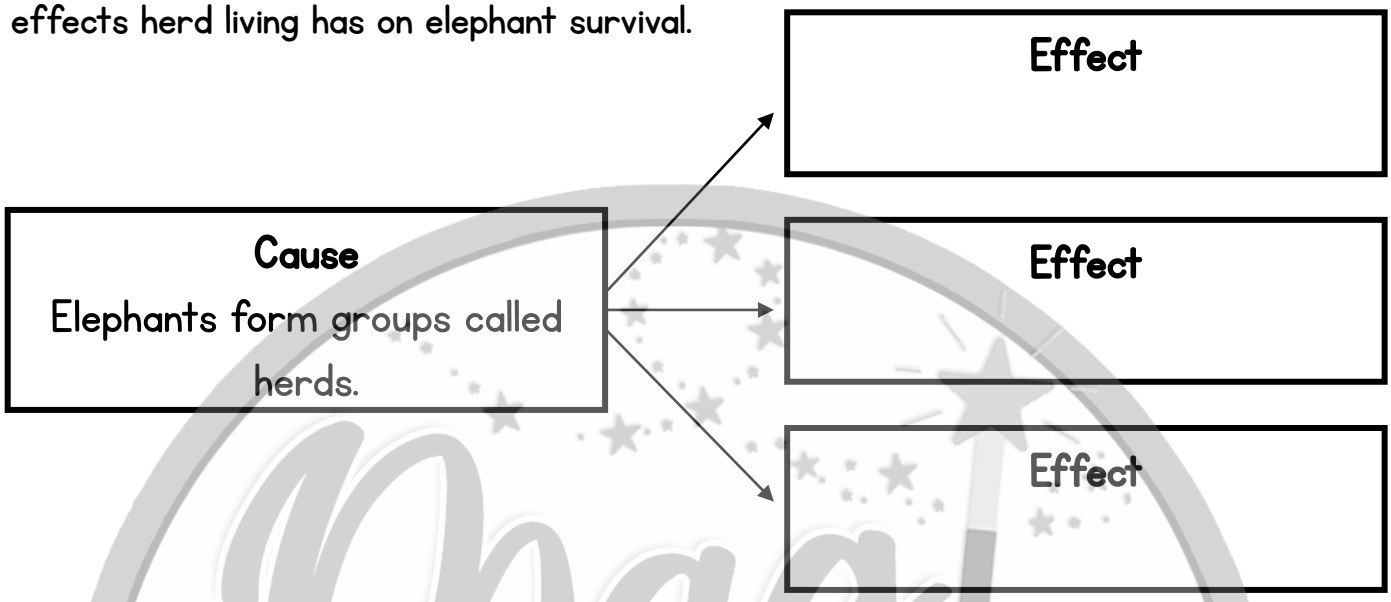
A herd protects elephants. Herds keep other animals from attacking. A main goal of the herd is sensing predators. Elephants would be less likely to survive without the safety of the herd.

Male elephants don't form herds. Young male elephants are normally alone. Researchers have seen males forming all-male herds, though. This behavior is thought to be an **adaptation**. The young males travel deeper into human lands. They go here in search of food. They use the herd to protect themselves. This shows how adaptable elephants are to **environmental change**.

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Elephant Herds Questions

1. Living in a herd has many effects on elephant survival. Fill in the chart below to show the effects herd living has on elephant survival.



2. The reasons male elephants have begun living together are different than a typical herd. Explain the differences between an elephant herd and male elephants living together.

Give 2 reasons scientists could use to argue that elephants survive better in groups. Explain how these reasons help them survive.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Explain: _____

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790L

Name: _____ Date: _____

Elephant Herds

The largest living land animal is the elephant. They live in forests and grasslands in Africa and Asia. Elephants travel in small family groups in their habitats. These groups have 2-8 elephants in them and are led by a female called the **matriarch**. The groups include females and young elephants. A **herd** is formed when several of these smaller groups join together.



A herd of elephants traveling.

Herds have many purposes. First, **members** of the herd help raise baby elephants. Females only give birth to one calf at a time. Each one is precious because elephants are **endangered**. Humans have destroyed many elephant habitats. They have killed elephants for their ivory tusks too. Every elephant that is born is important to help keep this **species** from disappearing. The herd works together to care for baby elephants. This gives them a better chance of making it to adulthood.



A baby elephant and its mother.

Elephant herds are also a source of social bonds. They are true families where the elephants communicate using calls and rumbles. They also support each other. If an elephant is injured, the other members of the herd will stay and help no matter what. The herd will also adjust its traveling

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speed if an older or injured elephant has to move slowly. When an elephant dies, the herd grieves.

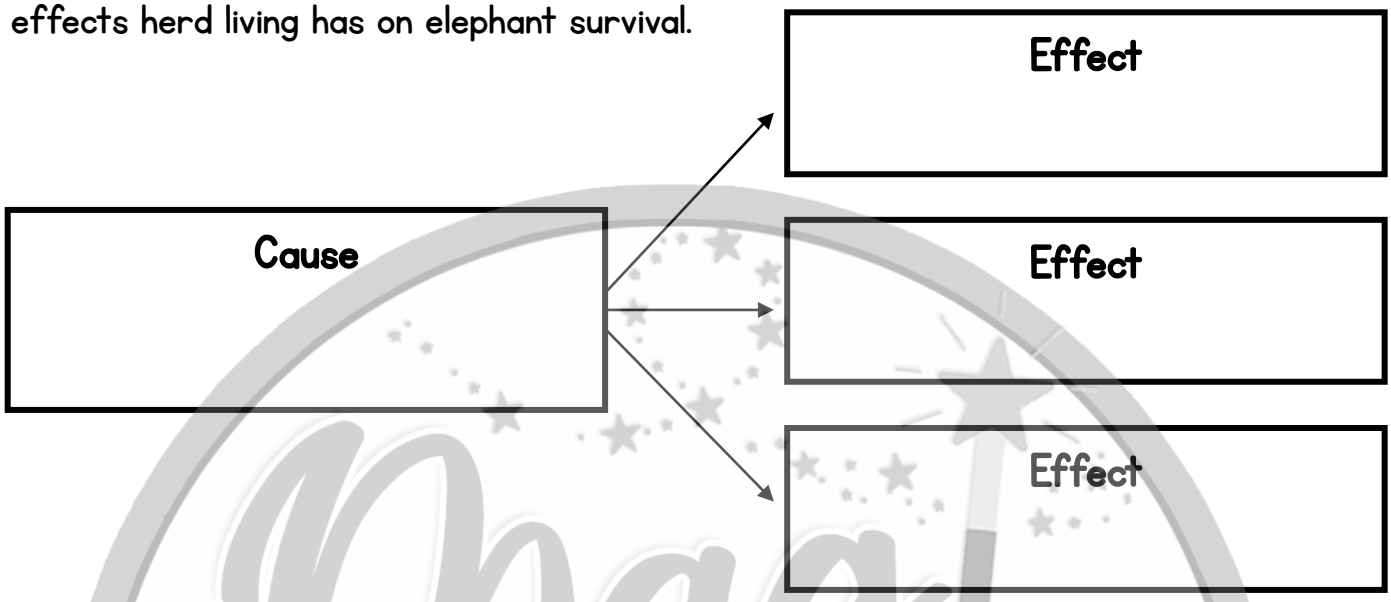
The biggest benefit to a herd is protection. Elephants' size and herd support keep other animals from attacking. Sometimes lions or hyenas are able to catch a calf. Usually, the herd doesn't allow this to happen. Being aware of predators is a main goal of the herd. The matriarch is the one to detect danger. She makes decisions about how to keep the herd safe. She judges the threat level and leads the herd to safety. Without the protection of the herd, elephants would be less likely to survive.

Male elephants don't usually form herds. Young male elephants are normally **solitary** or live with just a few other males. Researchers in India, however, have recently observed males forming large, long-term, all-male herds. This behavior is thought to be an **adaptation**. The young males are using the herd to protect themselves as they travel deeper into human lands in search of crops to eat. This shows how adaptable elephants are to **environmental change**. Humans have taken elephant habitats, so male elephants have changed their behavior to meet their needs.

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Elephant Herds Questions

1. Living in a herd has many effects on elephant survival. Fill in the chart below to show the effects herd living has on elephant survival.



2. The reasons male elephants have begun living together are different than a typical herd. Explain the differences between an elephant herd and male elephants living together.

---

3. Give 2 reasons scientists could use to argue that elephants survive better in groups. Explain how these reasons help them survive.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Explain: _____

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490L

Name: _____ Date: _____

Wolf Packs



Wolves are part of the **canine** family. Dogs, foxes, and coyotes are also canines. Wolves live in groups. The groups are called **packs**. These groups usually have 7-8 wolves. They include parents and offspring. Packs help wolves raise pups, hunt for food, and protect themselves.

All the wolves in a pack help care for pups. Members get food when the pups are very small. The mother does not get food. She stays in the **den** with the pups. Older wolves in the pack take turns bringing pups food. They play with them. They also watch over them. The pups learn how to survive from the adult wolves. They also play with other pups. All this play is practice for hunting. It also teaches pups how to **interact** with other wolves.



Wolves surrounding a bison.

Hunting is much easier in a wolf pack. A pack helps when going after large prey. First, the pack will spread out. Then, members surround the target. Some pack members attack from the rear. Others approach from the front. They work together. The wolves are more likely to be successful in getting food for the pack.

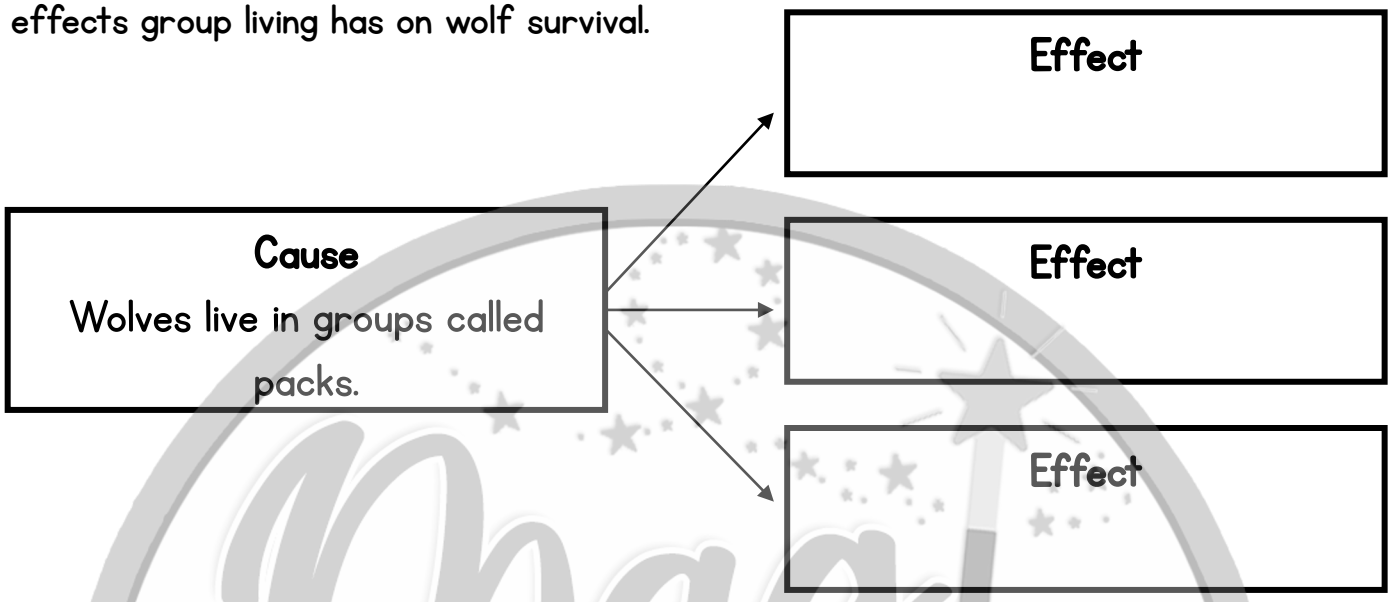
Male wolves **specialize** in protecting their packs. They fight off **rivals**. Teamwork helps wolves keep the members of their packs safe.

Wolf packs have many benefits for their members. Wolves do not want to live alone. They succeed by cooperating and struggle when alone.

©Julie Bachose

Wolf Packs Questions

1. Living in a group has many effects on wolf survival. Fill in the chart below to show the effects group living has on wolf survival.



2. Who helps take care of wolf pups in the pack? Describe their roles and what they do.

---

3. Give 2 reasons scientists could use to argue that wolves survive better in groups. Explain how these reasons help them survive.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Explain: _____

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760L

Name: _____ Date: _____

Wolf Packs



Wolves are members of the **canine** family. Dogs, foxes, jackals, and coyotes are also canines. Wolves are known for living in groups called **packs**. These groups usually have 7-8 wolves in them and include parents and offspring. Being a member of a pack helps wolves raise pups, hunt for food, and protect themselves.

All the wolves in a pack help with caring for pups. Pack members will get food when the pups are very small. This allows the mother to stay in the **den** with the pups. As the pups grow, older wolves in the pack take turns bringing them food, playing with them, and watching over them. The pups learn how to survive from the adult wolves in the pack. They also play with other pups. All this play in the pack is practice for stalking and killing prey. It also teaches pups how to **interact** with other wolves.



Wolves surrounding a bison.

Hunting is much easier in a wolf pack. When going after large prey, the pack will spread out. Members surround the target. Some pack members attack from the rear. Others approach from the front. By working together, the wolves are more likely to be successful in getting food for the pack.

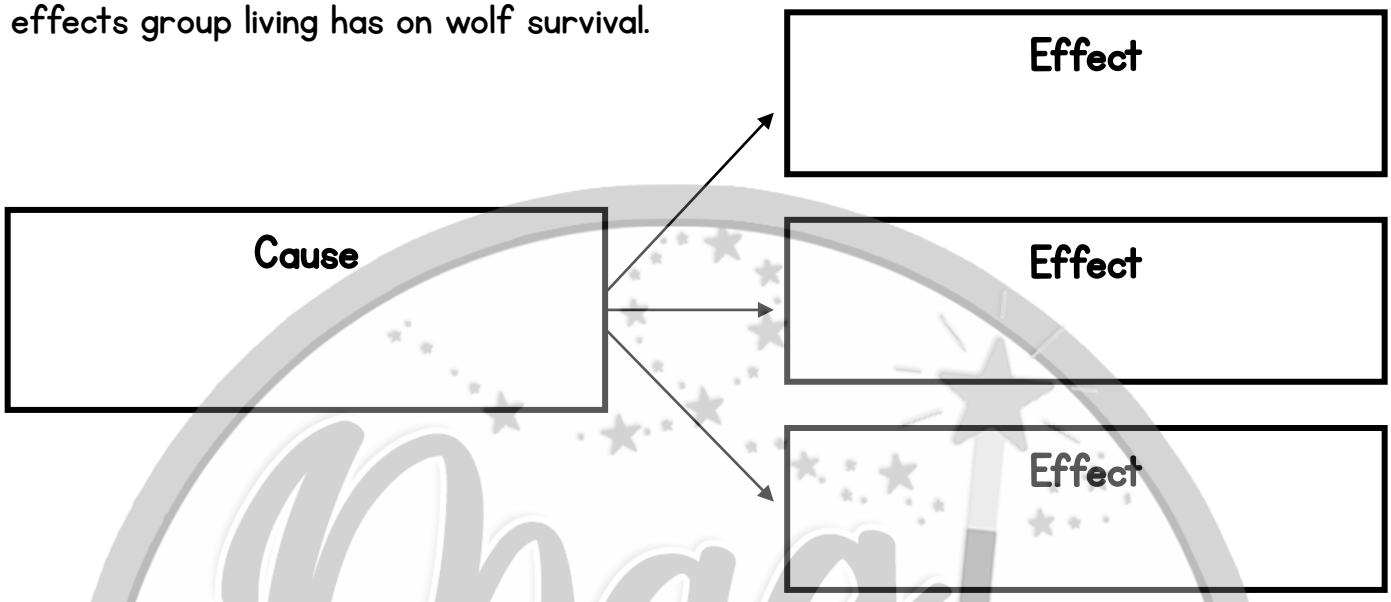
Male wolves **specialize** in protecting their packs. They fight off **rivals**. Wolves are more likely to chase away or attack threats knowing they have the strength of the other wolves behind them. Teamwork, as in hunting, helps wolves keep the members of their packs safe from harm.

Wolf packs, like many animal groups, offer several benefits to their members. Wolves are generally not interested in living alone. They succeed by cooperating and struggle when alone.

©Julie Bochorso

Wolf Packs Questions

1. Living in a group has many effects on wolf survival. Fill in the chart below to show the effects group living has on wolf survival.



2. Who helps take care of wolf pups in the pack? Describe their roles and what they do.

---

3. Give 2 reasons scientists could use to argue that wolves survive better in groups. Explain how these reasons help them survive.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Explain: _____

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