

Types of Animal Behavior



What is innate behavior?

Innate behavior is **pre-programmed** behavior in animals. Animals carry out this behavior instinctively, without the need to learn new skills.

For example, web building is innate behavior for spiders.

Spiders are able to produce the same web pattern each time with little variation. This behavior is not taught.



What is learned behavior?

Learned behavior is when an animal develops behavior through **experience**.

Learning helps animals acquire new skills for survival.



For example, over time a monkey will learn the best way to open nut shells.

Experience and repetition can also improve existing behavior in animals.





Are these behaviors innate or learned?

innate

learned

mother protecting young



solve



What is a reflex response?

A **reflex response** is an **automatic** response to a stimulus. These responses happen instantly, helping the animal react to danger quickly.

For example, if a snail is disturbed it will retract all of its soft body into its shell. This reflex response helps to protect the snail from predators.



Reflexes are usually innate. However, they can be learned.



What type of reflex responses do animals have?

Drag the feather next to each animal to see what reflex response it produces when tickled.

Click "**start**" to begin.

start



What is imprinting?

Imprinting is a special form of behavior in which an animal learns to recognize an individual as its mother. This occurs early in an animal's development.

Some newly hatched birds imprint on the first thing they see.

They will then stay close to the individual and accept food from them.



What is social behavior?

Social behavior is any interaction between animals. Each type of social behavior helps the species survive and reproduce.

- **Courtship behavior:** allows animals to recognize one another as members of the same species, and may lead to mating.
- **Cooperative behavior:** involves two or more animals working together to help the group.
- **Territorial behavior:** helps animals to defend their territory against other individuals. This can decrease competition for resources.



What is courtship behavior?

Courtship behavior is a ritual that helps animals to confirm that they are of the same species but opposite sex, allowing them to mate.



This is often a series of actions, like a sound, dance or a display, that shows the animal's fitness as a potential mate.

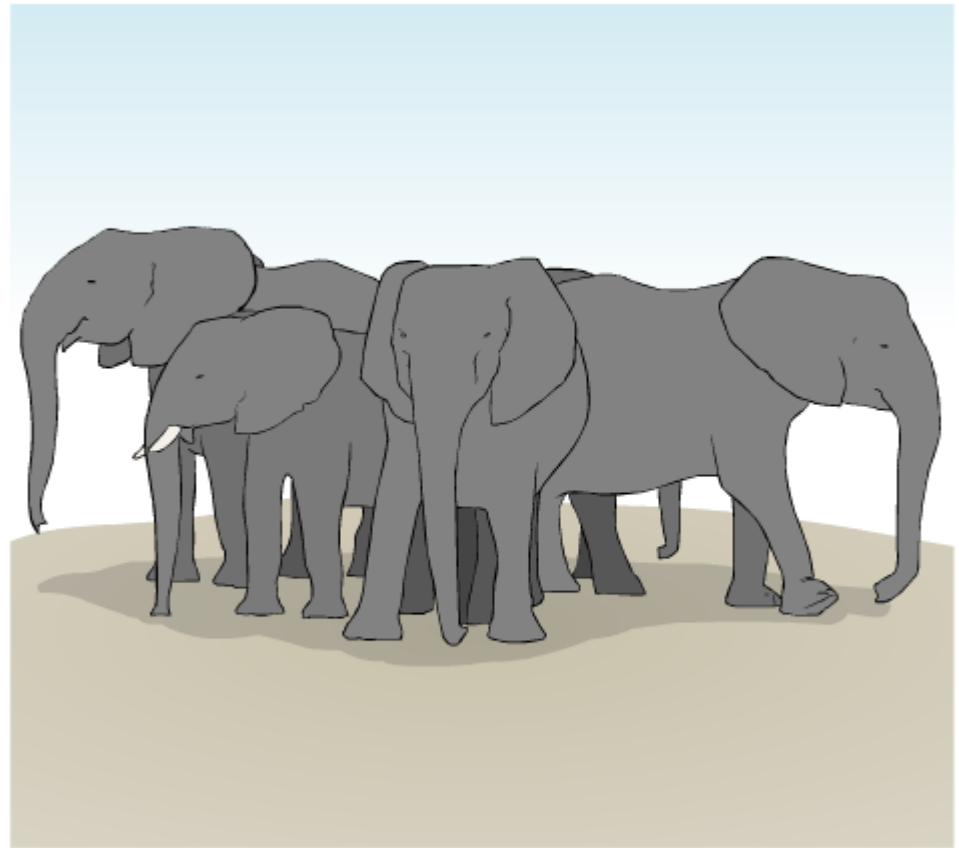
In many species the female will select the male that displays the most impressive courtship behavior.



What is cooperative behavior?

Animals often work together – this is called cooperative behavior.

Click "**start**" to see different examples of cooperative behavior in animals.



start



Which type of behavior?

Match each type of behavior with its description

learned

recognizing an individual as their mother

innate

a quick, automatic response to a stimulus

reflex

behavior that animals get from experience

imprinting

interaction between two or more animals

social

a group of animals working together

cooperative

pre-programmed, instinctive behavior



solve

