

Benchmark Answer Key

Level A

Benchmark 1:

1. C
2. Skunks stay safe by giving off a bad smell.

Benchmark 2:

1. B
2. Flying fish stay safe by using their side fins to leap out of the ocean and away from other animals.

Level B

Benchmark 1:

1. C
2. Animals that blend in can be safe from animals that might harm them.

Benchmark 2:

1. C
2. Coral snakes have red and black bands. Animals know that they will get sick if they are bitten by a coral snake.

Level C

Benchmark 1:

1. B
2. Bee flies and bees have different numbers of wings. Bee flies do not sting or make honey.

Benchmark 2:

1. D
2. Walking sticks move at night. They are hard to see because they move slowly and they look like sticks.

Level D

Benchmark 1:

1. D
2. An individual zebra is hard to see because its stripes run together with the stripes of other zebras. Also, a zebra can blend in with the tall grass.

Benchmark 2:

1. C
2. The snowshoe hare stays safe from its enemies by growing fur of different colors for different seasons.

Level E

Benchmark 1:

1. B
2. Porcupine fish take in enough water to grow large and to make their spines stand out. This makes them look scarier to their enemies.

Benchmark 2:

1. D
2. Some animals change color so that they can blend in with their surroundings and protect themselves from their enemies.

Level F

Benchmark 1:

1. B
2. Lanternfish have lights under their body that make them look like the sparkly rays of the sun, not a predator's next meal. These lights keep them safe.

Benchmark 2:

1. C
2. Sample answer: Sloths stay safe from predators by moving so slowly that they can't be seen and by sleeping without moving.