

SAAVAS Topic 7 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Organisms”, students learn about the structures and behaviors that help organisms survive within their environments. The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Structures and Functions
- Experience 2: Animal Behavior

First, in Experience 1, they analyze and explain how structures and their functions allow different species to survive in the same environment. Then, in Experience 2, they identify and explain how instinctual and learned behaviors increase organisms’ chances of survival.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 5.13A: Analyze the structures and functions of different species to identify how organisms survive in the same environment.
- 5.13B: Explain how instinctual behavioral traits such as turtle hatchlings returning to the sea and learned behavioral traits such as orcas hunting in packs increase chances of survival.

And the main SEPS and Recurring Themes and Concepts TEKS are:

- 5.2B: Analyze data by identifying any significant features, patterns, or sources of error.
- 5.3A: Develop explanations and propose solutions supported by data and models.
- 5.5F: Explain the relationship between the structure and function of objects, organisms, and systems.
- 5.5G: Explain how factors or conditions impact stability and change in objects, organisms, and systems.

One of the best ways for students to check on their learning is to explain it to someone else. Ask your student about their class experiences, and ask them to explain the content that they are learning while at school in their own words or, if relevant, in their first language.