

**CHAPTER 36 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR****Section 36.1 Innate Behavior****Read the Words**

Read the paragraphs in the boxes. Then answer the questions.

A **reflex** is the simplest form of inherited—innate—behavior. A reflex is a quick, automatic response that happens without thought. Many reflexes can happen in less than a second. For example, you blink quickly when something passes in front of your eyes. A clam withdraws into its shell when something touches it. This reflex behavior helps to protect the clam from predators.

An **instinct** is a pattern of inherited behavior. Unlike a simple reflex, an instinctive behavior may have several parts. It may take hours or even weeks to complete. Instinctive behavior begins when an animal recognizes a stimulus. A **stimulus** is a condition in the environment that makes an animal change its behavior. When Greylag geese retrieve eggs that roll out of their nest, the stimulus is the presence of an object outside the nest. Instinctive behaviors end when an animal completes all the parts of the behavior. Greylag geese retrieve the eggs one by one until they are all back in the nest. Instincts help animals survive.

1. What is the difference between a reflex and an instinct?

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2. Label each behavior as an instinct or reflex.
  - a. Geese retrieve eggs that have rolled out of their nests. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. You blink your eyes when something passes in front of your eyes. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A clam withdraws into its shell when something touches it. \_\_\_\_\_