Hernandez, Graciela

November 29, 2011

Animal Project

4th Grade Life Science

Mrs. Chenu

Bearded Dragons

Bearded dragons are fascinating animals. This report will discuss information about dragons’ primary sources of energy, habitat, environmental factors, food chain, and finally it’s adaptations.

The bearded dragon is an omnivore. An omnivore means that it eats both plants and animals. Its diet consists of vegetation such as leaves and vegetables as well as insects such as grasshoppers. Occasionally, it is also known to eat other small lizards and mammals. An interesting fact about the bearded dragon is that it gets most of the water it needs from the plants and animals it eats.

The habitat of an animal means where it lives. The bearded dragon is found in the eastern woodlands of Australia. The climate is semi-arid, which means that it doesn’t rain that often. The shelter is under a log, branch, hole or any other place it feels warm and safe. Shelter refers to where it sleeps.

The environmental factors of the bearded dragon means what are the living and nonliving things that surrounds and influence it. Some of the living factors include Eucalpytus trees, koala bears, gohana lizards, and dingos. The nonliving factors include a warm dry climate, red clay, and small creeks.

A food chain is the path in which energy flows from one animal to the next. The food chain of the bearded dragon starts with Eucalyptus tree, which then gets eaten by a grasshopper. The grasshopper then gets eaten by a bearded dragon, which gets eaten by gohana lizard, which gets eaten by a dingo. That animal is at the top of the food chain and doesn’t get eaten by anything. When it dies, it will decompose and get eaten by bacteria. The nutrients from the dingo are then put back into the soil for eucalyptus trees to grow.

Adaptations are the physical structures and behaviors that help an animal survive in its environment. The physical adaptations of the bearded dragon are a thorny exterior to keep predators from eating it, a beard that turns black to show aggression or to mate, the ability to get most of the water it needs to survive from the food it eats. The behavioral adaptations are the ability to climb quickly to get away from predators, waving to show submission and bobbing of the head to show superiority over another dragon. These adaptations allow the dragon to survive, reproduce and grow.

In conclusion, bearded dragons are majestic animals. They need certain diets, habitats, environmental factors, food chains, and adaptations in order to thrive.

References

* Beardies of Australia. (2009). Retrieved November 10, 2011, from http://www.lions.com/africa/b2k
* Maceo, L. (2010, February 8). Animal adaptations. All about animals. Retrieved November 12, 2011, from http://book.edu/animals