

## Changing Seasons: Animals in Winter



Let's investigate animals in winter! After completing this lesson, students will be better able to:

- Understand what hibernation means
- Talk about how animals prepare for colder weather

Did you know??

- Many animals' bodies alter or their behavior changes to adapt to the winter weather. Some animals grow new, thicker fur to keep out of the harsh wind and cold.
- Some animals have difficulty finding food in the winter, so they migrate or move to other places where the weather is warmer and food is more plentiful.
- When animals truly hibernate, they do not eat at all unless they are woken up! The animal's body temperature drops and its heartbeat and breathing slow down.
- Groundhogs, chipmunks, and bats are examples of animals that hibernate.



Let's learn **new** vocabulary words!

- **Prepare:** to make ready
- **Hibernation:** to sleep through the winter in a den or burrow to conserve energy
- **Den:** safe space for an animal to hide
- **Burrow:** a space or tunnel dug by some animals to stay safe
- **Migrate:** to move from one region to another
- **Adapt:** to change for a particular reason
- **Cave:** a natural hole in the Earth that is big enough for an animal to enter
- **Behavior:** the way an animal or a person acts