



Animals in winter

Hibernate, Migrate, Adapt

During winter animals from many different animal groups manage in different ways when it is cold, dark and there is less food. Some hibernate, some migrate and some adapt.

★ *I explore and appreciate the wonder of nature within different environments and can play a part in caring for the environment*

Hibernation - **Hibernation** is a way that some animals deal with the cold and lack of food during winter. They curl up in a safe place and stay there while it is very cold. **Hibernating** animals rest, they slow their heart rate and breathing, and their body temperature lowers too. This means they can survive long periods without eating, but they do need to get up occasionally to look for food and go to the toilet. Their clever bodies can also wake them up if temperatures drop so far that they're in danger of freezing. When it gets warmer again they wake up again and return to their normal activities.

Migration - **Animal migration** is when an animal group or individual animals move a long-distance from one place to another. This is usually on a seasonal basis and involves moving from a colder place to a warmer one. Animals from all major **animal** groups, including birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and crustaceans are known to do this.

Adaptation - **Adaptations** are any behavioural or physical characteristics of an **animal** that help it to survive in its environment. These characteristics fall into three main categories: body parts, body coverings, and behaviours. Any or all of these types of **adaptations** play an important part in helping animals to survive during the different seasons.

The only mammals that truly hibernate in the UK are hedgehogs, dormice and bats.

Badgers, squirrels, rabbits, mice, snails, frogs and bees all become less active and may rest in for longer periods but they do not fully hibernate during winter.



Hedgehogs



To get ready for their hibernation, hedgehogs eat as much as they can during autumn. To build up good fat reserves for winter, they munch all the beetles, caterpillars and earthworms they can find. They then look for a quiet spot to rest for the coming months, making use of whatever materials and hiding places they can find. They might build their own winter shelter - known as a hibernaculum - from dead leaves, twigs and feathers. In towns they might make a winter home in stacks of logs, compost heaps or under garden sheds.

The time hedgehogs go to their chosen spot will depend on how mild the weather is. Hibernation can take place any time from October to April, but in a warmer winter you may still see hedgehogs out and about in December.



↑
Insects that hedgehogs like to eat



↑
hibernaculum



↑
I got a hedgehog house for Christmas

Can you see the pile of leaves under the tree, this is a hedgehog hibernaculum

Have you seen a hedgehog or have one that visits your street or garden?

You could make a hedgehog and/or a hedgehog house?



Dormouse

Dormouse can begin to hibernate from October. Once they start hibernating they stay in their nests until April or May. These little mice slow their heartbeat and breathing down and lower their body temperature to just above freezing. During hibernation they can lose half their body weight, so they eat lots during spring and summer growing to almost double their size.

You could make a nest in your garden for a mouse to live in or even for a dinosaur.



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Bats

Bats hibernate and look for hollow trees, roofs, caves and bat boxes to spend the winter in. They usually hibernate from November to April. To help get them through hibernation, bats can slow their breathing to as few as five breaths a minute. Some bats can last almost an hour without breathing at all!

Health and Wellbeing

★ *I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in in different kinds of energetic play, both outdoors and indoors.*

Going on a dark walk or a torch walk

Dark nights provide great opportunities to enjoy the dark. Playing outside in the dark helps children use all their senses and learn:

- How do animals and mini beasts behave when it's dark?
- Nocturnal animals - Which animals might come out when it is dark?
- What animals visit gardens during the night?
- How to keep safe when outside in the dark - what to wear to be safe and seen, who to go out with, what will you need
- About the different seasons and changes such as the days getting shorter and longer
- What can you hear, are the noises different from during the day?

Den Building - Build a den inside or out



Or make a den for a favourite toy



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Preparing and making healthy carrot soup together

After all you busy den making maybe a bowl of carrot soup would fill you back up



Cosy Carrot Soup

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/user/296288/recipe/carrot-soup>

★ *Together we enjoy handling, tasting, talking and learning about different foods, discovering ways in which eating and drinking may help us to grow and keep healthy*

Expressive Arts

★ *I have the freedom to discover and choose ways to create images and objects using a variety of materials.*

Could you make a hedgehog from dough and sticks. You could use little stones for eyes. You could use mud and sticks too.

If you have an old bottle you could look for pinecones to stick on to make a hedgehog.

Maybe you could make a house for your hedgehog to live in or hibernate for winter in.



The link below will lead you to a recipe for hedgehog bread.

<https://rainydaymum.co.uk/hedgehog-bread/>



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Winter literacy and numeracy.



Can you make a letter that is in your name out of things you find outside or on a walk?

I used some cones that I found on a walk to make an m and a K from my name. I also made a t and an L.

You could add letters together to form words.



I used cones and sticks collected on a walk to try some addition. You could try with sticks, cones, stones or leaves that you collect when out and about.



Sequencing - can you carry on the pattern?

Try using some of your collected items to make sequences and pattern. How long could you carry on?



Pasta necklaces or bracelets



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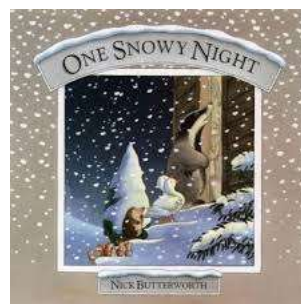


You could try making patterns and sequences using pasta or beads

To colour pasta

1. Add your dried pasta to a sealable bag. You'll need one bag for each colour you would like to make.
2. Add in 10-15 drops of your food colouring to the bag. Seal it up and SHAKE!
3. Prepare a paper towel lined tray. Pour your wet coloured pasta onto a paper towel and spread them out.
4. Let your coloured pasta dry overnight, mixing it around once or twice, to let it dry completely, overnight is recommended

One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth



You can listen to Mrs Dickson reading the story on Seesaw



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Ideas to explore the story further



I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to, and can share my likes and dislikes.

I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts, sharing my thoughts and ideas in different ways.

I Spy with my little eye, something beginning with

Each week we will add a picture for an "I Spy" literacy game.

This week can you find things in the picture that begin with

Health and Wellbeing:

- Cuddle up together to share a story
- Talk together about the different feelings of the characters in the story and learn more about emotions

Literacy:

- Listening to a story from beginning to end
- Talking about how stories have a title, author, illustrator, beginning and end
- Talking about the people, characters and events in the story
- Talking about a favourite part of a story
- Predicting what might happen next
- Can you read the story to me? Retelling a story in your own words with or without the pictures in the book
- Making up your own story through role play, drawing pictures or writing
- Be an author and illustrator by writing, drawing your own story in a homemade book
- Are there any animals in the story that hibernate during winter?
- Can you find out what the other animals in the story do during winter
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/09/when-hedgehogs-hibernate/>
- The link above will help you find out about other animals during winter some are in One Snowy Night

Numeracy:

- Sequencing of events, which animals visited Percy? In which order did they visit? Who was first? Who was last?
- Positional language - over, under, through
- Counting how many characters there are in the story - you could look back through the book together and make a tally



Bb and Dd



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Bb for ? Dd for ?

