

Animals Get Ready

In some places, as the weather gets cold, animals start to prepare for winter. The gray squirrel stays active in winter. In the fall, he gathers nuts and makes a nest to keep warm. Read on to learn how other animals prepare for winter.

How Animals Prepare for Winter

Some mammals hibernate.

Some mammals, like woodchucks, eat a lot of food in autumn. The food is stored in their bodies while they go into a very deep sleep for the winter. Other animals, such as dormice and chipmunks, also hibernate.

Some animals hide.



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Some animals hide.

Some animals, like turtles, hide themselves to keep out of the cold. They hide under rocks, under leaves, inside logs, and even in mud and water. Some frogs and fish also hide from the cold.

Some insects hibernate.

Some insects, such as ladybugs, also sleep through the winter. During that time, they do not grow. That is called **diapause**. Gypsy moths and grasshoppers are insects that also

undergo diapause during the winter.

Some birds migrate.

Some birds, like seagulls, leave cold places and travel to warm places. Many begin migrating in autumn, before the first snowfall. Other animals, such as caribou, butterflies, and humpback whales, also migrate.



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Some animals find warm places to bide their time.

Cool Creatures

Some animals **adapt** to the cold weather. That means their habits and bodies change to survive the cold. Some animals change their diet and the thickness and color of their fur.

Finding Food. Deer feed on leaves, bark, twigs, and other foods that are available during winter.

Staying Warm. Some rabbits grow thicker fur to keep warm.

Staying Safe. The fur of an Arctic fox changes color to blend in with the snow. Hiding keeps them safe from danger.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the article, how do some birds prepare for winter?

- A hibernate
- B migrate
- C hide
- D adapt

2. According to the text, what *causes* animals to prepare for winter?

- A The weather gets cold.
- B They leave cold places.
- C They gather nuts to eat.
- D They hide under rocks.

3. Why does the author include the last paragraph *Cool Creatures* in the article?

- A to show some animals grow thicker fur to survive the cold
- B to show how some animals adapt to survive the cold
- C to show deer eat leaves, bark, and twigs to survive the cold
- D to show some animals change color to blend in with snow

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"Gypsy moths and grasshoppers are insects that also undergo diapause during the winter."

Based on the text, the word **undergo** means

- A learn
- B go through
- C go around
- D stress

5. Which statement supports the main idea of the passage?

- A Woodchucks and chipmunks are mammals.
- B Squirrels like to play before the first snowfall.
- C Gypsy moths and grasshoppers are insects.
- D Some birds travel to warm places.

6. List at least three animals that migrate.

7. Why is preparing for winter important for some animals? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ the squirrel filled his cheeks with nuts, then he stored them away for winter.

- A But
- B Next
- C Such as
- D First

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

During the winter, some animals have ways to survive the cold such as hiding or adapting.

What? animals

(have) What? _____

When? _____

How? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** adapt: to change in some way in order to successfully deal with a challenge.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher and Answer Guide

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 690

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: Animals get ready for winter in different ways. Turtles hide to stay warm, insects hibernate, some birds migrate, and some animals adapt to the cold weather.

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Suggested answer: Butterflies, humpback whales, and caribou are all animals that migrate. [paragraph 5]

7. Why is preparing for winter important for some animals? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Some animals cannot live in very cold winter weather. They must find ways to survive the cold. Butterflies migrate to warmer weather. Gray squirrels gather nuts and make warm nests. Turtles go inside logs to keep out of the cold. [paragraphs 1-5]

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During the winter, some animals have ways to survive the cold such as hiding or adapting.

What? animals

(have) What? **ways to survive cold winter weather**

When? **during the winter**

How? **hiding or adapting**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** adapt: to change in some way in order to successfully deal with a challenge.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.