



HIBERNATION

READING COMPREHENSION

Over Winter, some animals hibernate. Hibernation is when an animal goes into a deep sleep to pass the cold winter. Their body temperature is lowered, and their breathing and heart rate slows down to conserve energy. In fact, some animals look dead when they are hibernating.

Animals hibernate in dark and quiet places such as underground (eg chipmunks, groundhogs, queen bumblebees), tree trunks and roots (eg hedgehogs) or in caves (eg bats and bears). They stay there all Winter, and do not wake until Spring time. This helps them survive the colder months, because during Winter, there is less food available in their environments. During the warmer seasons, hibernating animals prepare for hibernation by eating a lot of food and storing excess fat to keep them alive.

But what about animals who can't hibernate - how do they survive the cold winter temperatures and lack of available food? Some migrate which means they move to warmer climates, such as whales and some birds, while others store food such as squirrels and beavers.

1 In your own words, define hibernation: _____

2 Describe two changes that occur in the bodies of hibernating animals:

○ _____

○ _____

3 Why do animals hibernate over Winter and not other seasons? _____

4 Why is there less food available in Winter than in other seasons? _____

5 Why do you think animals hibernate underground, in tree roots or in caves?

