

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Hibernation

By Kimberly M. Hutmacher



Hibernation is a word used to describe an animal that passes the winter months in a sleep-like state. Certain animals do this because they otherwise couldn't survive the severe cold and lack of food through the season. Common hibernators include woodchucks, ground squirrels, hedgehogs, hamsters, and bats. Many people think that



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warmer weather and sources of food, these animals will wake up and resume their normal lives.

Did you know that there are animals that do this same kind of thing during the summer months? In areas of the world that are very hot and dry, the summer months can be life threatening to some animals. Creatures, like certain frogs and fish, bury themselves in mud and stop all activity until the difficult summer months are over. This process is called estivation.

Both hibernation and estivation are survival tools used to help our animal friends survive their most difficult seasons.

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1. List 5 hibernating animals mentioned in the text of the article.

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3. What occurs right after hibernation?
  - a. an animal finds or makes a winter shelter
  - b. an animal falls into a deep sleep
  - c. an animal ventures out to look for food
  - d. winter arrives
4. What is estivation?
  - a. when an animal slows down and sleeps through the winter months
  - b. when an animal digs a hole and looks for food
  - c. when an animal slows down and sleeps for the summer months
  - d. when an animal wakes up during hibernation

## ANSWER KEY

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1. What is estivation?

- a. when an animal slows down and sleeps through the winter months
- b. when an animal digs a hole and looks for food
- c. when an animal slows down and sleeps for the summer months**
- d. when an animal wakes up during hibernation