

Hibernating Animals

What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is how some animals survive the winter. They find a safe place and fall into a very deep sleep. Animals such as hedgehogs, dormice and bats hibernate to escape the cold of winter.

Whilst animals are hibernating, their body temperature drops and their breathing becomes much slower.

Some animals hibernate for the winter because the weather is much colder and it is hard for them to find food. When the weather warms up in the spring, they will wake up again.

How Do Animals Prepare for Hibernation?

Before going into hibernation, many animals prepare by eating extra food. They store this as fat in their bodies to help keep them alive while they sleep.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs like to eat insects, snails and worms. In the winter, it is harder for them to find food so they have to hibernate.

Hedgehogs go into hibernation anytime from November to January. They usually hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They make a nest of dry leaves and grass to keep themselves warm. They never hibernate outside their nest but they will sometimes wake up and move nests before going back to sleep.





Dormice

Dormice hibernate between October and April. They roll themselves into a ball and go to sleep on the ground in a nest of leaves and grass.

In order to survive hibernation, dormice need to eat lots of food during the summer and autumn.

Bats

Bats go into hibernation from November until March or April. They often hibernate in disused buildings, old trees or caves.

Bats might hibernate on their own or in small groups.



Queen Bumblebees

Queen bumblebees can hibernate for up to nine months of the year!

They hibernate in soil. The queen bee will dig down about 10cm below the ground. She will then make a little hole to hibernate in.






Toads

Common toads usually hibernate between October and March.

They hibernate in the bottom of hedgerows, under deep leaf litter, logs or drainpipes.



Shared Reading- Hibernating Animals- 26/1/21

	<p>Write a list of all the proper nouns. (Remember the capital letters).</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>Find another word in the text that means <u>live</u>.</p> <hr/>
	<p>List 3 things that a hedgehog eats</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>Explain what animals do to prepare for hibernation.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>Why do you think only some animals hibernate?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>