

## Animals that Hibernate

Read about animals that hibernate and then answer the questions below.

Hibernation is a way that some animals deal with winter. They curl up in a safe place and stay there until winter ends. Hibernating animals seem almost dead. They barely breathe, and their body temperature is near the freezing mark. When it gets warmer, they return to their regular activities.

Animals that hibernate are called hibernators. They include bats, hedgehogs, ground squirrels, groundhogs, and marmots. Hibernators like dark, quiet winter homes. Some go underground or into caves.

Hibernators prepare for winter with extra eating. They store fat to keep them alive during the months when they do not eat. Some hibernators collect and store food before hibernating. At times during hibernation, these animals arise to eat and then return to hibernating.

A hibernator's body responds to weather conditions. If the weather becomes too cold, the animal needs to move around to raise its body temperatures. An animal that does not do this may die. Warmer temperatures tell an animal to come out of hibernation. Many animals save energy in the winter by sleeping more, but these animals are not truly hibernating. When an animal just sleeps, its body temperature does not drop much. In addition, noise can wake a sleeping animal but not a hibernator.

Bears are an example of animals that change their activities in the winter but are not true hibernators. They spend most of the winter asleep, but their body temperature barely drops. A bear will move around if woken up. Also, females give birth and nurse during this time.

Only certain mammals are true hibernators. But other kinds of animals do something similar. Many reptiles and amphibians of mild climates become inactive in winter. Frogs and toads rest in holes or in mud at pond bottoms. Snakes may crowd together in caves. Many insects and spiders are frozen solid during the winter.

(From: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/hibernation/353245>)

1. What type of homes do hibernators like? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How does a hibernator get ready for the winter? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. When does a hibernator stop hibernating? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why is a bear not a true hibernator? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What happens to some insects and spiders in the winter? \_\_\_\_\_

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