

Why Animals Hibernate

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

Some animals hibernate because the winter can be very hard. Winter is cold and there is very little food around. These animals curl up in a safe place and stay there until winter ends. They stop moving and look like they are sleeping, or even like they are dead. They barely breathe and their body temperature gets very low. When it gets warmer, animals that hibernate go back to what they normally do.

Some of the animals that hibernate are bats, bears, hedgehogs, ground squirrels, groundhogs, raccoons, skunks, opossums and marmots. Frogs, toads, turtles, lizards, snakes, snail, fish, shrimp, and even some insects hibernate.

To get ready to hibernate, animals eat a lot in the summer and the fall. They gain weight so that they have extra fat to keep them alive during the winter when they are not eating. A black bear can gain up to 30 pounds a week! Animals also get the places where they will sleep ready. Some make nests and some fill underground dens with extra food.

(From: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/fun-hibernation-facts/> and <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/hibernation/353245>)

1. Why do some animals hibernate? _____

2. What happens to an animal's body when it hibernates?

3. List 5 animals that hibernate: _____

4. How does an animal that hibernates behave when the weather gets warm? _____

5. Describe, in your own words, how an animal gets ready to hibernate. _____
