

# What do animals do in winter?

## Instructional Procedures

### Materials Needed:

- Glue
  - Two soup cans
  - A piece of cotton batting
  - Two thermometers
  - Classroom clock
  - How Does Fur Help Animals? (.pdf file)
1. Discuss that during the winter, some animals travel or migrate, some hibernate, some hide, some change color, and some make changes to their bodies like growing extra fur.
  2. Discuss migration. Some animals migrate to find food or water. Others migrate because they are looking for safe places to raise a family. Other animals migrate to escape the cold. List the animals that migrate (birds, monarch butterflies, reindeer, whales, etc.).
  3. Discuss hibernation. Animals hibernate when food is hard to find. Some animals are deep sleepers, and some animals are light sleepers. Dormice, ground squirrels, and groundhogs are three deep sleepers. They don't wake up at all. In fact, they look dead when they are hibernating! Turtles and frogs bury themselves in mud to hibernate.
  4. Some animals make adaptations to survive during the winter. They can't put coats on like we do. For example, a fox grows extra fur. The following experiment will show how fur helps animals to stay warm.

### How does fur help animals?

- a. Glue the cotton batting around one of the soup cans. The cotton batting will represent fur. Wait for the glue to dry.
- b. Fill both cans with hot water. The can with cotton batting represents fur.
- c. Place a thermometer in both cans and record the temperature of the water on the *How Does Fur Help Animals?* recording sheet. Record the temperature in the cans every 10 minutes for 30 minutes. What did you discover?