

Hibernating Animals

What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is when some animals go into a very deep sleep in winter.

Why Do Some Animals Hibernate?

Some animals hibernate in winter because the weather is very cold and it is hard for them to find food.

Animals That Hibernate



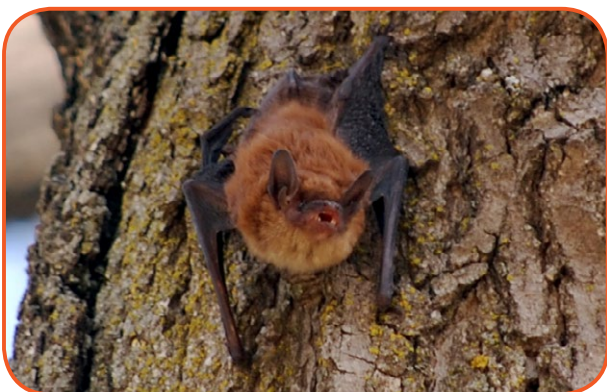
Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs usually hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They sometimes hibernate under sheds.



Dormice

Dormice roll themselves into a ball and fall asleep on the ground in a nest of leaves and grass.



Bats

Bats hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or caves. They hibernate on their own or in small groups.

Photos courtesy of jonner(@flickr.com) and Zoë Helene Kindermann(@Wikimedia Commons) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Hibernating Animals

What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is when some animals go into a very deep sleep during the winter. Animals such as hedgehogs, dormice and bats hibernate to escape the cold of winter.

Why Do Some Animals Hibernate?

Some animals hibernate in winter because the weather is very cold and it is usually difficult for them to find any food. When the temperature is warmer in spring, they wake up again.

Animals That Hibernate

Hedgehogs like to eat insects, snails and worms. In the winter, it is harder for them to find this food. Hedgehogs hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They make a nest with dry leaves and grass to keep themselves warm.



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

Bats go into hibernation from November or December until March or April. They often hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or caves. Bats might hibernate on their own or in small groups.



Photos courtesy of jonner(@flickr.com) and Zoë Helene Kindermann(@Wikimedia Commons) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

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.



Photos courtesy of jonner(@flickr.com) and Zoë Helene Kindermann(@Wikimedia Commons) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution