

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension

Winter

Winter is the best season of the year. During the winter months, temperatures are usually colder and there are fewer hours of daylight. The winter months in North America are December, January, February, and March.

Cold winter temperatures are caused by the tilting of the Earth. When Earth's Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, there are fewer hours of daylight and the temperature is colder. When the Northern Hemisphere tilts towards the sun, there is more daylight time and the temperatures are warmer. The tilting of the Earth as it spins causes the seasons to change.

Animals have special ways of preparing themselves for winter. Some animals, like birds and butterflies travel long distances, or *migrate*, to warmer temperatures during the winter months. Other animals go to sleep, or *hibernate*, during the winter. Bears, gophers, snakes, and bats hibernate. Squirrels and raccoons don't migrate or hibernate. Instead, they gather extra food during the fall months and store it away so they have plenty to eat during the winter.

In some areas, winter is a time when snow falls and gathers on the ground. People who live in these places can enjoy special winter activities like skiing, sledding, or snowboarding. They can also build snowmen and snow castles. When the water in lakes and ponds freeze, people can ice skate or play ice hockey. Some people even cut a hole in the ice and go ice fishing!

Reading Comprehension Questions
Winter

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are the winter months in North America?

2. Is there more daylight time during the summer months or winter months?

3. What causes the seasons to change?

4. During the winter months, is the Northern Hemisphere tilted towards the sun or away from the sun?

5. What does the word *hibernate* mean? List two animals that hibernate.

6. What do squirrels and raccoons do to prepare for the winter?

Reading Comprehension Questions
Winter

7. What does the word *migrate* mean?

8. Name three activities mentioned in the article that require a frozen pond or lake.

9. Which sentence in the first paragraph is an opinion?

10. Write a short paragraph describing some things you like to do in the winter.

Reading Comprehension Questions
Winter - ANSWER KEY

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are the winter months in North America?

In North America, the winter months are December, January, February and March.

2. Is there more daylight time during the summer months or winter months?

There is more daylight during the summer months.

3. What causes the seasons to change?

The tilting of the Earth causes the seasons to change.

4. During the winter months, is the Northern Hemisphere tilted towards the sun or away from the sun?

During the winter months, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun.

5. What does the word *hibernate* mean? List two animals that hibernate.

Hibernate means to sleep through the winter. Bears, gophers, snakes, and bats hibernate.

6. What do squirrels and raccoons do to prepare for the winter?

Squirrels and raccoons gather extra food in the fall so they have enough to eat during the winter.

Reading Comprehension Questions
Winter - ANSWER KEY

7. What does the word *migrate* mean?

Migrate means to travel long distances.

8. Name three activities mentioned in the article that require a frozen pond or lake.

You can ice skate, place ice hockey, or go fishing on a frozen pond or lake.

9. Which sentence in the first paragraph is an opinion?

Winter is the the best season of the year.

10. Write a short paragraph describing some things you like to do in the winter.

Answers will vary.