

Name: _____

Hibernation

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Hibernation is a word used to describe an animal that passes the winter months in a sleep-like state. Certain animals do this because they otherwise couldn't survive the severe cold and lack of food through the season. Common hibernators include woodchucks, ground squirrels, hedgehogs, hamsters, and bats. Many people think that bears hibernate. While they do slow down and rest for the winter, they do not go



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slows down, its body temperature drops, and it breathes more slowly. When spring arrives with warmer weather and sources of food, these animals will wake up and resume their normal lives.

Did you know that there are animals that do this same kind of thing during the summer months? In areas of the world that are very hot and dry, the summer months can be life threatening to some animals. Creatures, like certain frogs and fish, bury themselves in mud and stop all activity until the difficult summer months are over. This process is called estivation.

Both hibernation and estivation are survival tools used to help our animal friends survive their most difficult seasons.

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1. List 5 hibernating animals mentioned in the text of the article.

2. Complete the graphic organizer.

A red-bordered rectangular box containing a cartoon superhero character on the left, wearing a red suit and cape, flying and holding a green gift. To the right of the character, the word "PREVIEW" is written in large, bold, red letters with a black outline. Below "PREVIEW", the text "Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet." is written in a smaller, black font. The entire box is surrounded by a large, faint oval outline.

3. What occurs right after hibernation?

- a.** an animal finds or makes a winter shelter **b.** an animal falls into a deep sleep
c. an animal ventures out to look for food **d.** winter arrives

4. What is estivation?

- a.** when an animal slows down and sleeps through the winter months
b. when an animal digs a hole and looks for food
c. when an animal slows down and sleeps for the summer months
d. when an animal wakes up during hibernation

ANSWER KEY

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1. List 5 hibernating animals mentioned in the text of the article.

woodchucks

ground squirrels

hedgehogs

hamsters

bats

2. Complete the graphic organizer.

its heart rate slows

A cartoon superhero character with brown hair, wearing a red suit with a blue cape and a blue chest emblem, is flying through the air. He is holding a green gift box with a red ribbon.

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