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

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

5. Name: ____________________________________________
6. What do squirrels and raccoons do to prepare for the 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.

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Preview
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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.
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

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

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ANSWER KEY

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.**

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.
    
    __________________________________________________________________________
    
    __________________________________________________________________________
    
    __________________________________________________________________________
    
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    __________________________________________________________________________

   *Answers will vary.*