

Hibernation

A Reading A-Z Level 1 Leveled Reader

Word Count: 200



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Hibernation



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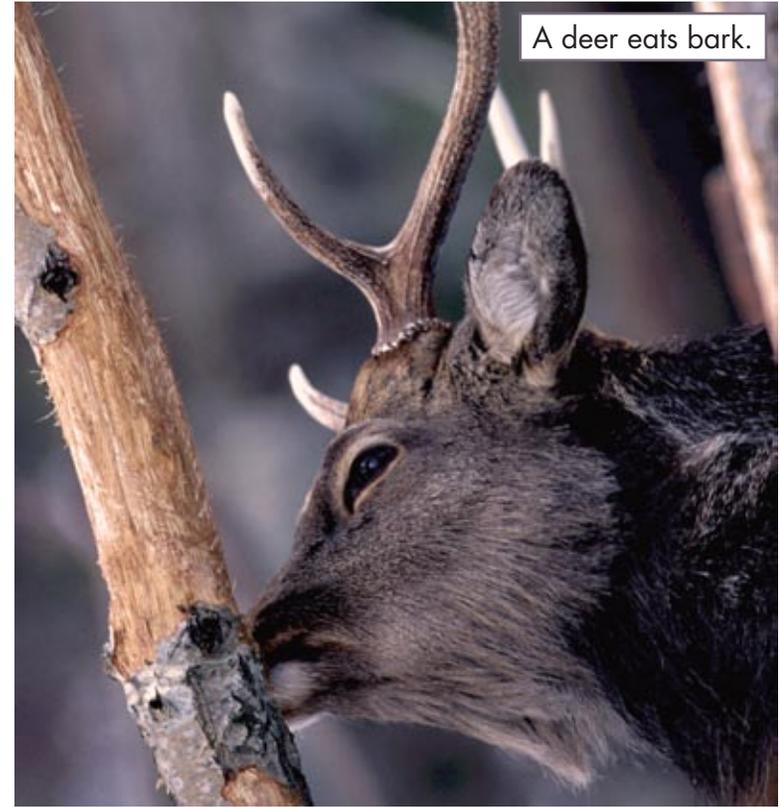
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No Food in Winter

Many places have cold winters. Some animals in these places have trouble finding food in the winter. Many animals move to warmer places to find food. Other animals hibernate.

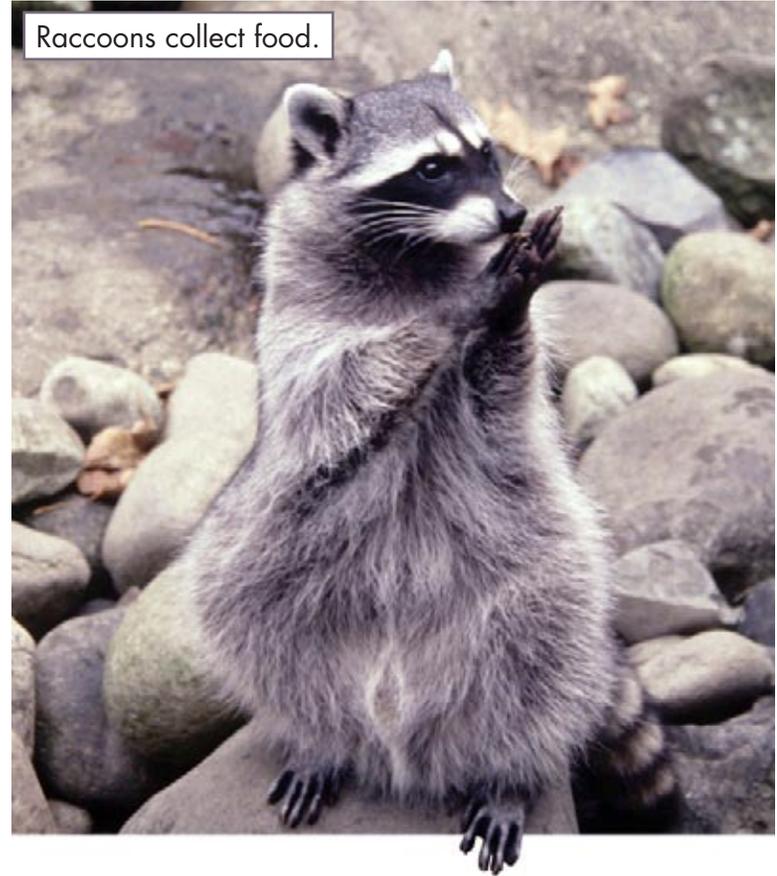
Hedgehogs must gain weight to hibernate.



What Is Hibernating?

Hibernating is like a very **sound** sleep. Hibernating animals sleep for many days or weeks at a time. Animals breathe slowly when they hibernate. Their hearts beat slower, and they do not need to eat.

Raccoons collect food.



How Do They Stay Alive?

Hibernating animals eat lots of food before winter begins. They store the food in their bodies as fat. Their bodies live off this fat while they sleep.

A black bear is safe in its den.



They also need a safe place to sleep.
They need to be safe from the cold.
And they need to be safe from **predators** that want to eat them.



Some snakes hibernate together.

snake burrow



Some animals, like bats, hibernate in caves. Hibernating snakes sleep underground in **burrows**. Frogs and turtles sleep in mud at the bottom of ponds.



Hibernating Animals

Groundhogs, chipmunks, and snakes hibernate. Frogs, turtles, and prairie dogs hibernate. Hamsters and hedgehogs hibernate. Even bees and snails hibernate!



Some mice, squirrels, and bats hibernate all winter long. Bears, badgers, and skunks might wake up to eat on a warm day. Then they go back to sleep. In the spring, all the hibernating animals wake up.

Glossary

- burrows** (*n.*) holes in the ground dug by animals (p. 8)
- predators** (*n.*) animals that hunt other animals (p. 7)
- sound** (*adj.*) deep; undisturbed (p. 5)



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