



Winter Survival

As winter approaches temperatures start to drop and days get shorter. While humans can enjoy winter from our windows, animals have to survive. Why does winter mean a time of survival for most animals? Winter drastically reduces the food supply. Animals can hibernate, become dormant, migrate, adapt or die during winter. Hibernation is an inactive state of reduced metabolism which allows the animal to survive the entire winter without food. Dormancy is a state of inactivity and sleep that is not as deep as hibernation and which lasts hours or weeks between active periods.

Directions: Pick an animal that is native to Illinois. Learn about the animal and what it does to survive winter. Research your animals in books, the internet and magazines. Answer the following questions about your animal. Finally, your class will combine all of their animals on a giant Winter Animal Mural. In this mural, place your animal in its correct winter habitat with its winter food source.



1. What is your animal?
2. What type of animal is it? (mammal, bird, reptile, insect, amphibian)
3. What does your animal do to survive winter? (hibernate, remain in a state of dormancy, migrate, adapt, die) How does it do so?
4. What is your animal's winter habitat?
5. What is your animal's winter food source?