

English

Grade 3

Winter reading comprehension: how animals hibernate

Read how bears, bats and wood frogs survive the cold, then prove answers with the text.



I can answer questions using evidence from a nonfiction text.

1



Sleeping through winter



Winter is hard for many animals. Food is hard to find, and the air is cold. Some animals survive by hibernating. When an animal hibernates, its body slows down so it can save energy.

Black bears eat lots of food in the fall to build up fat. Then they rest in a den for months. They do not eat or drink during this time. Their bodies use the stored fat instead. Some mother bears even give birth to cubs in the den in winter.

Many bats hibernate in caves. They hang upside down in big groups. Their body temperature drops, and their hearts beat much more slowly.

The wood frog has one of the strangest tricks. It hides under leaves on the forest floor. Much of its body turns to ice, and its heart stops beating! In spring, the frog thaws out, and its heart starts again. Then it hops away.

2

**Find the evidence**

Circle the best answer.

1. Why do animals hibernate?

A To save energy when food is hard to find

B To grow taller

C To find new friends

2. What do black bears use for energy in the den?

A Berries they bring in

B Their stored fat

C Snow

3. Which sentence shows the wood frog is unusual?

A It hides under leaves.

B Its heart stops beating in winter.

C It hops away.

3

**Which animal?**

Write each detail under the right animal.

rests in a den

hangs upside down

hides under leaves

may have cubs in winter

sleeps in a cave

turns partly to ice

Black bear

Bat

Wood frog

4

**True or false**

Circle the right answer.

1. Bears eat a lot in the fall.

True

False

2. Bats hibernate alone, one at a time.

True

False

3. A hibernating bat's heart beats more slowly.

True

False

4. The wood frog stays icy all year long.

True

False

5 Fill in the facts

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. When an animal hibernates, its body slows down to save _____.
2. Black bears build up _____ in the fall.
3. Bears rest in a _____ for months.
4. Many bats hibernate in _____.
5. The wood frog hides under _____ on the forest floor.
6. In spring, the wood frog _____ out.

6 Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐ hibernate •

☐ stored •

☐ den •

☐ thaw •

• A. to melt and warm up after being icy

• B. a safe hidden home where an animal rests

• C. to rest through winter with the body slowed down

• D. saved to use later

7 A bear's year

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐ The bear rests in its den all winter.

☐ In spring, the bear leaves the den.

☐

In the fall, the bear eats lots of food.

☐

The bear's body uses its stored fat.

8



Think about it

Circle the best answer.

1. Why do black bears eat so much in the fall?

A To grow taller

B To store fat for the winter

C To feed the bats

2. Why do bats hang together in big groups?

A The text does not say.

B To play games

C To find food

3. Which word best describes the wood frog's trick?

A boring

B noisy

C amazing

4. What is the main idea of the whole text?

A Some animals hibernate to survive winter.

B Frogs like ice.

C Caves are dark.

9



Prove it

Which animal do you think has the most amazing way to survive winter? Give one reason from the text.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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Many bats hibernate in caves. They hang upside down in big groups. Their body temperature drops, and their hearts beat much more slowly.

The wood frog has one of the strangest tricks. It hides under leaves on the forest floor. Much of its body turns to ice, and its heart stops beating! In spring, the frog thaws out, and its heart starts again. Then it hops away.

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Black bear

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Bat

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Wood frog

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4 True or false

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Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

C hibernate

D stored

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A thaw

● **A.** to melt and warm up after being icy

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4 In spring, the bear leaves the den.

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B Frogs like ice.

C Caves are dark.

9 Prove it

Which animal do you think has the most amazing way to survive winter? Give one reason from the text.

Answers vary. Example: The wood frog, because much of its body turns to ice and its heart stops, but in spring it thaws out and hops away.

How did it go?



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