

# Hibernating Animals

## What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is when some animals go into a very deep sleep in winter.

## Why Do Some Animals Hibernate?

Some animals hibernate in winter because the weather is very cold and it is hard for them to find food.

## Animals That Hibernate



### Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs usually hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They sometimes hibernate under sheds.



### Dormice

Dormice roll themselves into a ball and fall asleep on the ground in a nest of leaves and grass.



### Bats

Bats hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or caves. They hibernate on their own or in small groups.

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# Questions

1. What is hibernation? Tick one.

- ☐ when some animals go in a very deep sleep
- ☐ when animals look for food
- ☐ when animals have babies

2. Which season does hibernation happen in? Tick one.

- ☐ summer
- ☐ winter
- ☐ spring

3. Where do hedgehogs hibernate? Tick one.

- ☐ in a tree
- ☐ next to water
- ☐ under a pile of leaves

4. How do dormice hibernate? Tick one.

- ☐ they stretch out
- ☐ they dig a hole
- ☐ they roll themselves into a ball

5. Tick one place where bats hibernate.

- ☐ a cave
- ☐ a nest
- ☐ on the ground

# Answers

1. What is hibernation? Tick one.

- ☒ **when some animals go in a very deep sleep**
- ☐ when animals look for food
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2. Which season does hibernation happen in? Tick one.

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- ☒ **winter**
- ☐ spring

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5. Tick one place where bats hibernate.

- ☒ **a cave**
- ☐ a nest
- ☐ on the ground

# Hibernating Animals

## What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is when some animals go into a very deep sleep during the winter. Animals such as hedgehogs, dormice and bats hibernate to escape the cold of winter.

## Why Do Some Animals Hibernate?

Some animals hibernate in winter because the weather is very cold and it is usually difficult for them to find any food. When the temperature is warmer in spring, they wake up again.

## Animals That Hibernate

**Hedgehogs** like to eat insects, snails and worms. In the winter, it is harder for them to find this food. Hedgehogs hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They make a nest with dry leaves and grass to keep themselves warm.



**Dormice** hibernate between October and April. They roll themselves into a ball in a nest of leaves and grass on the ground.



**Bats** go into hibernation from November or December until March or April. They often hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or caves. Bats might hibernate on their own or in small groups.

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# Questions

1. What is it called when animals go into a deep sleep? Tick one.

- ☐ extinction
- ☐ hibernation
- ☐ starvation

2. Which season do animals hibernate in?

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3. What do hedgehogs like to eat? Tick two.

- ☐ leaves
- ☐ snails
- ☐ insects

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Hedgehogs hibernate
Dormice hibernate between
Bats might hibernate on their own

or in small groups.
under dry leaves.
October and April.

5. Complete this sentence.

Bats often hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or \_\_\_\_\_.

ponds
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caves
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bushes
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# Answers

1. What is it called when animals go into a deep sleep? Tick one.

- ☐ extinction
- ☒ hibernation
- ☐ starvation

2. Which season do animals hibernate in?

**winter**

3. What do hedgehogs like to eat? Tick two.

- ☐ leaves
- ☒ **snails**
- ☒ **insects**

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Hedgehogs hibernate	or in small groups.
Dormice hibernate between	under dry leaves.
Bats might hibernate on their own	October and April.

5. Complete this sentence.

Bats often hibernate in empty buildings, old trees or **caves**.

ponds

**caves**

bushes

# Hibernating Animals

## What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is how some animals survive the winter. They find a safe place and fall into a very deep sleep. Animals such as hedgehogs, dormice and bats hibernate to escape the cold of winter.

Whilst animals are hibernating, their body temperature drops and their breathing becomes much slower.

Some animals hibernate for the winter because the weather is much colder and it is hard for them to find food. When the weather warms up in the spring, they will wake up again.

## How Do Animals Prepare for Hibernation?

Before going into hibernation, many animals prepare by eating extra food. They store this as fat in their bodies to help keep them alive while they sleep.

## Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs like to eat insects, snails and worms. In the winter, it is harder for them to find food so they have to hibernate.

Hedgehogs go into hibernation anytime from November to January. They usually hibernate under a pile of dry leaves. They make a nest of dry leaves and grass to keep themselves warm. They never hibernate outside their nest but they will sometimes wake up and move nests before going back to sleep.





### Dormice

Dormice hibernate between October and April. They roll themselves into a ball and go to sleep on the ground in a nest of leaves and grass.

In order to survive hibernation, dormice need to eat lots of food during the summer and autumn.

### Bats

Bats go into hibernation from November until March or April. They often hibernate in disused buildings, old trees or caves.

Bats might hibernate on their own or in small groups.



### Queen Bumblebees

Queen bumblebees can hibernate for up to nine months of the year!

They hibernate in soil. The queen bee will dig down about 10cm below the ground. She will then make a little hole to hibernate in.

### Toads

Common toads usually hibernate between October and March.

They hibernate in the bottom of hedgerows, under deep leaf litter, logs or drainpipes.



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# Questions

1. What is it called when animals go into a deep sleep for the winter? Tick one.

- ☐ extinction
- ☐ hibernation
- ☐ starvation

2. Why do hedgehogs hibernate?

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3. Draw a line to match these hibernation facts with their animal.

toads
hedgehogs
queen bumblebees

hibernate in the soil
hibernate under dry leaves
hibernate from October to March

4. Find a word in the text that means the same as **live**.

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5. Name three places that toads might hibernate in.

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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6. Why do you think only some animals hibernate?

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# Answers

1. What is it called when animals go into a deep sleep for the winter? Tick one.

☐

extinction

☒

**hibernation**

☐

starvation

2. Why do hedgehogs hibernate?

**Hedgehogs hibernate because it is hard for them to find food in the winter.**

3. Draw a line to match these hibernation facts with their animal.

toads	hibernate in the soil
hedgehogs	hibernate under dry leaves
queen bumblebees	hibernate from October to March

4. Find a word in the text that means the same as **live**.

**survive**

5. Name three places that toads might hibernate in.

**Answers include any three of the following: bases of hedgerows, under deep leaf litter, logs, or drainpipes.**

6. Why do you think only some animals hibernate?

**Various answers.**