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ANIMALS IN WINTER – Habitats – SLIDE SHOW SCRIPT (Grades K-2)

This slide show is intended to be used as a review at the end of the workshop—with questions aimed at prompting discussion.

1. WINTER SCENE

As we've seen, winter can be a very difficult time for animals. Why? (**possible answers:** *hard to find food and water, to get around, and to stay warm*) Where might animals find shelter from the wind and cold in this picture? (*low tree boughs, below snow*). Animals cope with the hardships of winter in a variety of ways.

2. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

This animal feeds mostly on insects, and we don't see many of those flying around in the winter! During late summer, red-winged blackbirds and other kinds of birds move south. Can you think of other animals that migrate long distances? (*many birds, monarch butterflies, some caribou, whales, bats, fish, people, etc.*)

3. AMERICAN TOAD

This animal also feeds on insects, but it can't fly south! Where might a toad spend the winter? (*this toad digs its way into the soil to spend the winter.*)

4. GARTER SNAKE

Like the toad, this “cold-blooded” snake cannot remain warm enough in winter to stay active. Instead snakes huddle together in small holes or crevices in rocks. How might other reptiles and amphibians spend the winter? (*burrowing under soil or mud, freezing solid under leaf litter*)

5. BAT

Hanging by its feet in a cave, this bat is hibernating through the winter. What other animals hibernate? (*jumping mice, ground squirrels, woodchucks, bears*)

6. WOODCHUCK

When the woodchuck hibernates in its burrow for the winter, its heart rate drops from 160 beats per minute to only about 4 per minute. Its breathing slows down, and its body temperature drops, too.

7. RACCOON

How does the raccoon survive in the cold? (*raccoons seek shelter and may sleep for a week or two, but stir to find food when the weather permits.*) Can you name other animals that are dormant in the winter? (*chipmunks, skunks*)

8. TREE WITH SQUIRREL NEST

Many animals remain active throughout the winter by storing food and finding shelter for the colder days. Here we see the leafy summer home of a gray squirrel. During the winter, gray squirrels more often nest inside of tree holes, where they store food for the winter. What other animals are active in the winter? (*moose, deer, beavers, some birds, bobcats, foxes, coyotes, hares, squirrels, mice*)

9. BEAVER POND
There's a special shelter here in this dammed-up stream. Inside the lodge, there could be two or as many as ten beavers. Beavers remain active throughout the winter, eating food they've stored and snuggling close together on cold nights.
10. BEE ON FLOWER
Bees also remain active during the winter, but we don't see them flying around. Instead, the bees huddle together in their hive, feeding on flower pollen and honey. What kinds of insects have you observed in the winter? (*flies, ladybugs, silverfish . . .*)
11. WOOLLY BEAR
Insects go through the winter in many forms: as eggs, as larvae – like this woolly bear caterpillar, as pupae, and as adults. On warmer winter days, you might see a woolly bear slowly making its way across the snow!
12. TREE WITH CAVITIES
This hole was made by a hungry woodpecker. Since ants and beetle larvae are hidden inside trees through the winter, woodpeckers do not need to migrate to find food and remain active all winter.
13. TRACKS IN SNOW
Here's a mystery in the snow – during the night an animal passed by. Even though we may not see many animals in winter, you can often find signs of their activity. What might this animal have been searching for on a cold, winter night? (*perhaps food, shelter, or a mate*)
14. PEOPLE
Winter presents its challenges: finding food and water, getting around, and staying warm. Like other animals, people have to adapt to winter, too. Some people migrate south, but most of us find other ways to stay warm and active through the cold months. What is your favorite way to get warm in the winter?

