

Winter Survival Strategies

Grade 1 - 4

Objective: overall understanding of various strategies animals use to survive winter

Student will be able to

- name and explain the survival strategies discussed
- describe benefits and risks of various strategies in terms of basic needs
- compare the common characteristics and behaviors of animals using different strategies - i.e. warm-blooded vs cold blooded, fur, feathers, exoskeleton, foraging

Materials: strategy and image printed on 8.5x11 pages landscape, **Migration, Adaptation, Hibernation, Torpor, Diapause, Brumation** – see photo (appropriate for grade level)

- page protector for each strategy with the tab at the bottom for clipping on species tags
- clip on name tags, enough for at least one per student
- an assortment of business card size animal/insect/ bird/ reptile/and so on, photos, names and other information can be on the back as per grade level, these are inserted into the name tags

Play: introduction based on grade level – seasonal changes, basic needs, observations and prior knowledge of how animals cope with winter. How does their favorite local animal survive winter?

- introduce strategies
- tags will be attached to each strategy according to how each animal survives winter. This can be done by passing out tags to students, the number per student will depend on class size and grade level or randomly draw a tag one at a time, discuss how they cope with winter. Sort by strategy and attach to the strategy sheet using the clip – see photo. Volunteers can hold each sheet during the exercise when working outdoors.
- At the end of the exercise students have sorted the tags and attached them to the appropriate survival strategies, creating a visual display.

Debrief: Review key learning points – strategies and definitions.

What was most surprising? What strategy would they choose and why? How can we help?

