

Enquiry question – How does our world change in winter?

Overview

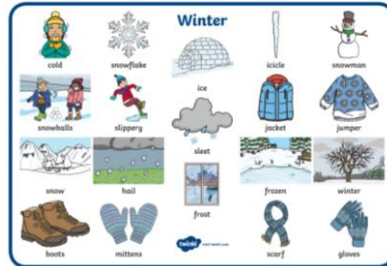
The children will understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them by making observations of changes to the environment and weather in winter. They will investigate animal behaviour through the changing of seasons.

What should I already know?

Children will have had experience of using all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. They will identify the four seasons and talk about changes observed in the Autumn.

Pictures/Diagrams

Winter



What Is Winter?

Winter is one of the four seasons. Click on the winter season to see which months are in winter.



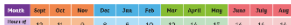
December January February

What Happens to the Days?

What have you noticed about the time you have to play outside after school, recently?

We will notice:
• that there are fewer hours of daylight;
• that the nights last longer.

Winter has the least amount of daylight and the longest nights of all the seasons.



What Happens to the Plants?

Do the same flowers grow all year round?

We might notice:
• that many trees lose their leaves and their branches go bare.
• that there are not as many flowers.



Back

Hibernating



What Is Hibernation?

Hibernation is the way that some animals survive through the winter. They find a safe place and fall into a very deep sleep. When the temperature is warmer, in the spring, they wake up again. Whilst animals are hibernating, their body temperature drops and their breathing slows down.

Did You Know...?

While bears tend to slow down during the winter, they are not true hibernators. Black bears, Grizzly bears and Brown bears do go into a deep sleep during the winter months, known as torpor.



Key Vocabulary

Hibernate	A place built for people to live in.
Senses	We have five senses – sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing.
Season	There are four main weather seasons - Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.
Weather	Weather is sunshine, rain, snow, wind, and storms . It's what is going on outside right now.
Change	When something is different from how it first was.

Scientific skills

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter

Hyde Park Infants' School - Science

Topic: Celebrations

Reception

Strand: Understanding the World
The Natural World

Enquiry question – How does our world change in winter?

Question 1:	Start of Unit	End of Unit
What will an animal do if it hibernates?		
A. Sleep through the winter		
B. Eat food		
C. Play		
Question 2:		
Which of these animals hibernates?		
A. Dog		
B. Frog		
C. Cat		
Question 3:		
What clothes would you wear to play in the park on a winter's day?		
A. Hat and gloves		
B. Sun hat		
C. Sandals		

Question 4:	Start of Unit	End of Unit
What will the weather be in winter?		
A. Cold		
B. Hot		
C. Sunny		
Question 5:		
What happens to most plants and trees in the winter?		
A. Lose their leaves and not flower		
B. Show beautiful colours		
C. Smell nice		