

WEEK 8

Outdoor Learning: Animals Prepare for Winter

Children act out how animals prepare for the winter.

Big Ideas	Like humans, animals are part of interdependent communities that are affected by, and adapt to, the environment that surrounds them.
Guiding Questions	How do animals form communities, work together, and use and adapt to their environments, and how is this similar to and different from what people do? What do animals need to survive?
Materials and Preparation	Identify an outdoor area to walk or hike. Browse the resources: • Exploring Outside in Winter with Students: article from Maine Audubon that provides information about animals in Maine that hibernate. • What Really Happens to Maine’s Animals in the Winter?: article from Bangor Daily News
Activity	Through the game, children act out how animals prepare for winter. Some animals migrate, others hibernate, and still others stay active. As the children hike or walk around, the leader says either “migrate”, “hibernate”, or “stay active.” When the leader says “migrate”, the children flap their arms. When the leader says “hibernate,” the children pretend to sleep by putting their head on their hands. When the leader says “stay active”, the children run in place.

