

UNIT OVERVIEW

“Hibernation: Badgers, Bears, Bats and Snakes” is a two week language arts unit intended for use with Grade Two/Three children. It can be used to strengthen the children’s reading and writing skills. Throughout this unit, children are involved in activities that focus their attention on language and how it is used. They brainstorm, read fact cards, look up definitions in the dictionary, answer questions in complete sentences, make jot notes, prepare report outlines, and write reports.

A display of books about hibernation and different animals that hibernate should be set up in the classroom. The books motivate the children and encourage them to read for enjoyment and for information. Children refer to these books when they research different animals for their animal reports. It is important to have as many books as possible, on each different animal, to encourage the children to use a number of different sources when researching and writing their animal reports. In addition to using these books for report writing, children are encouraged to read these books in their spare time and during silent reading.

Section One: Lesson Plans

Section One contains two weeks of lesson plans. The lesson plans describe the different teaching strategies for using the activities in each day’s lesson. Each lesson includes a spelling activity, a brainstorming activity, work in the student booklet, a writing activity, playing the hibernation word game, and a parent page.

Section Two: Student Booklets

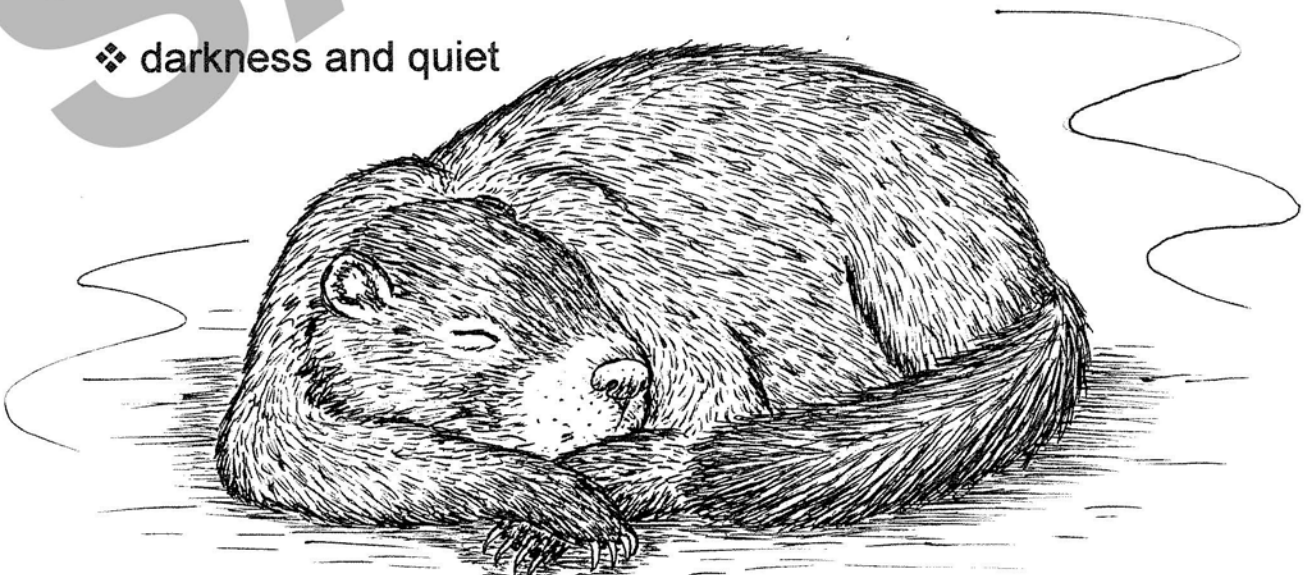
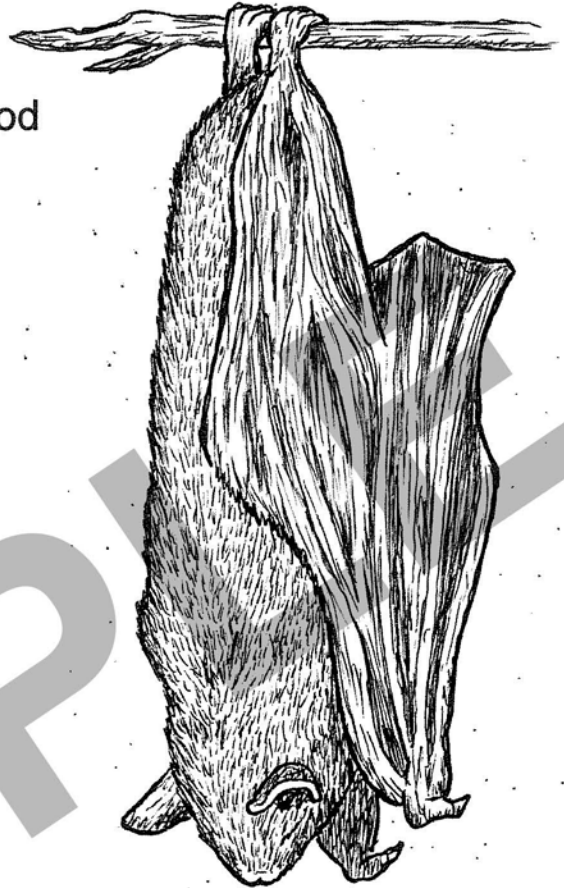
Section Two includes a student booklet that is ready to be photocopied for student use. There are three pages that go along with each of the hibernation fact sheets. The first page contains three vocabulary words that the children need to look up in the dictionary. The second and third pages contain ten questions about the hibernation fact sheet. The children are encouraged to answer the questions using complete sentences.

Section Three: Parent Pages

Section Three includes nine parent pages. There is a parent page for each lesson from Week One – Day Two to Week Two – Day Five. The children take home a parent page at the end of each day’s lesson. The parent pages reinforce what the children learn each day. They are meant to make the parents

Hibernation Jot Notes

- ❖ animals that find it hard to find food
- ❖ short day length
- ❖ burrows and dens
- ❖ spend the winter in sleep
- ❖ heartbeat slows down
- ❖ gather and store food (hoard)
- ❖ onset of cool weather
- ❖ eat lots to build up fat reserves
- ❖ body temperature drops
- ❖ animals that wouldn't survive severe winter conditions
- ❖ some animals almost stop living
- ❖ darkness and quiet



6. What do garter snakes eat?

7. Who are a garter snake's enemies?

8. How does a garter snake protect itself?



9. Where does a garter snake hibernate?

10. When do garter snakes leave the den they hibernate in?

3. What happens to animals during hibernation?

4. Why do some animals wake up during hibernation?

5. How do animals know when it is time to hibernate?
