

Animals Prepare for Winter

Pre-Visit Activities

The activities included in your pre-visit packet have been designed to help you and your students get ready for your upcoming program at the St. Joseph County Parks. These activities will help your students learn about how different animals prepare for winter. The activities have been chosen to suit a range of ages from 1st through 4th grade. Of course, if you don't have time to do the activities before your park visit, you can do them afterwards to review what the students learned during the program.



Animals and You in Winter

Discuss with your students the different ways that animals prepare for and survive the winter. To survive the winter, an animal can **migrate** to a warmer area, they can remain **active** to search for food, they can **hibernate**, or they can become **dormant**, which means that they sleep a lot but still wake up during the winter to search for food. Also discuss ways that people prepare for winter and the things they do to survive it.

The following short videos can start your discussion. Please preview all videos before watching them with your students.

Bird migration: <https://www.pbs.org/video/d4k-bird-migration-video-short-guaj9g/>

Mammal hibernation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhrhcsICrE8>

Storing food:

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/a-squirrels-guide-to-success-chipmunk-showdown/16693/>

On the following page, have students complete the following sentence and then illustrate what they wrote.

“In winter I _____, but if I were a _____, I would _____.”

For example: “In winter I put on my mittens, but if I were a goose, I would migrate for the winter.”

Animals and You in Winter

“In winter I _____,”

but if I were a _____,

I would _____.”



Match the Animal with its Winter State

Animals do many things to survive winter. Some are **active**, which means they move around throughout winter to find food and stay warm. If an animal is **dormant**, it means that it sleeps a lot but will still wake up and move about some, while **hibernating** animals find a cozy, sheltered place to sleep all winter. Don't forget about those animals who **migrate**, which means they go somewhere it is warm and where they have adequate food to eat during the winter months. (One animal below migrates to its wintering site to hibernate!) Place a check mark in one of the four boxes and see if you can guess what each animal does to survive the winter chill!



Active Dormant Hibernate Migrate

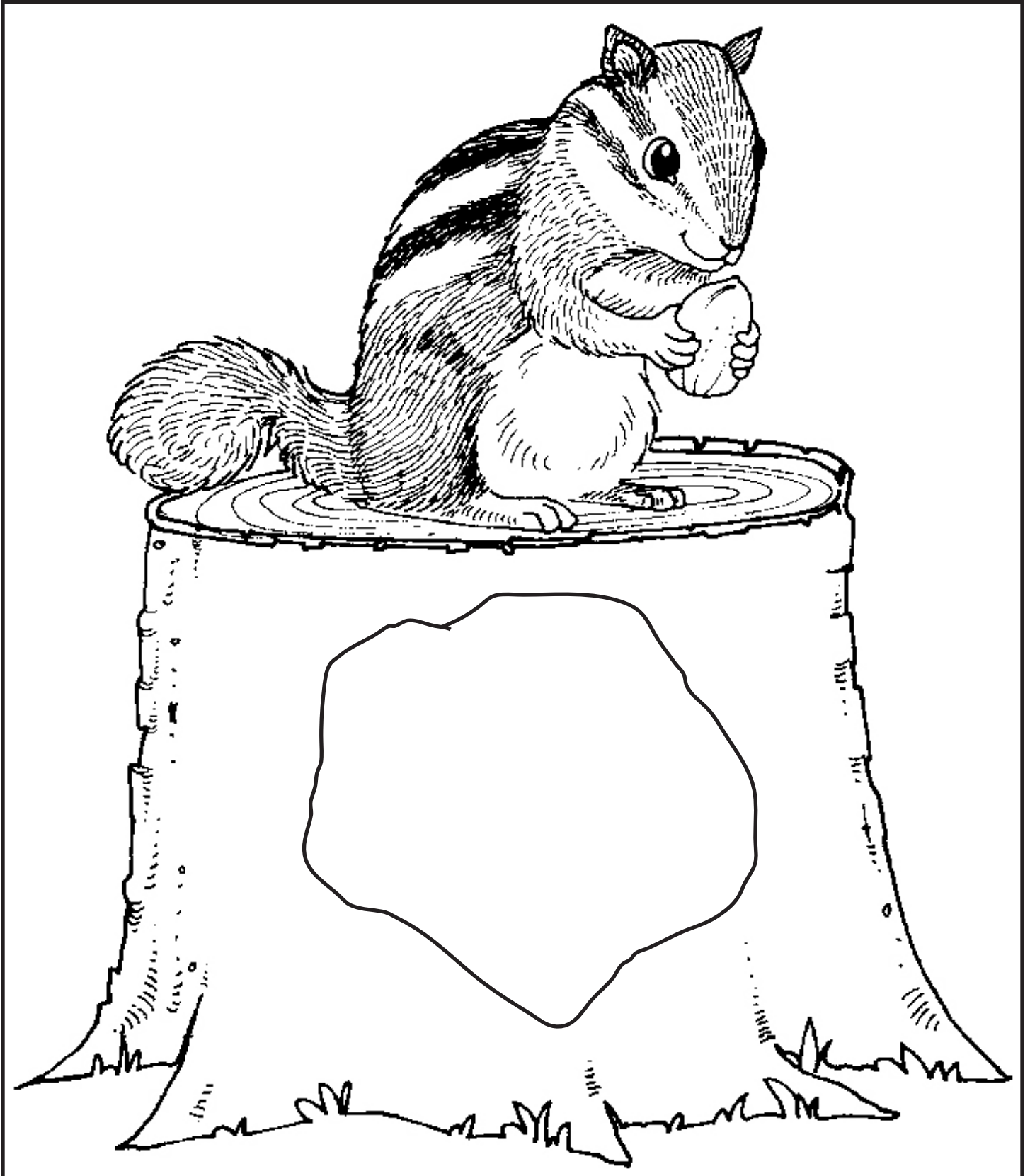
Cottontail Rabbit				
Fox				
Black Bear				
Woodchuck (Groundhog)				
Raccoon				
Little Brown Bat				
Squirrel				
Monarch Butterfly				
White-tailed Deer				
Skunk				
Opossum				
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel				
Hummingbird				



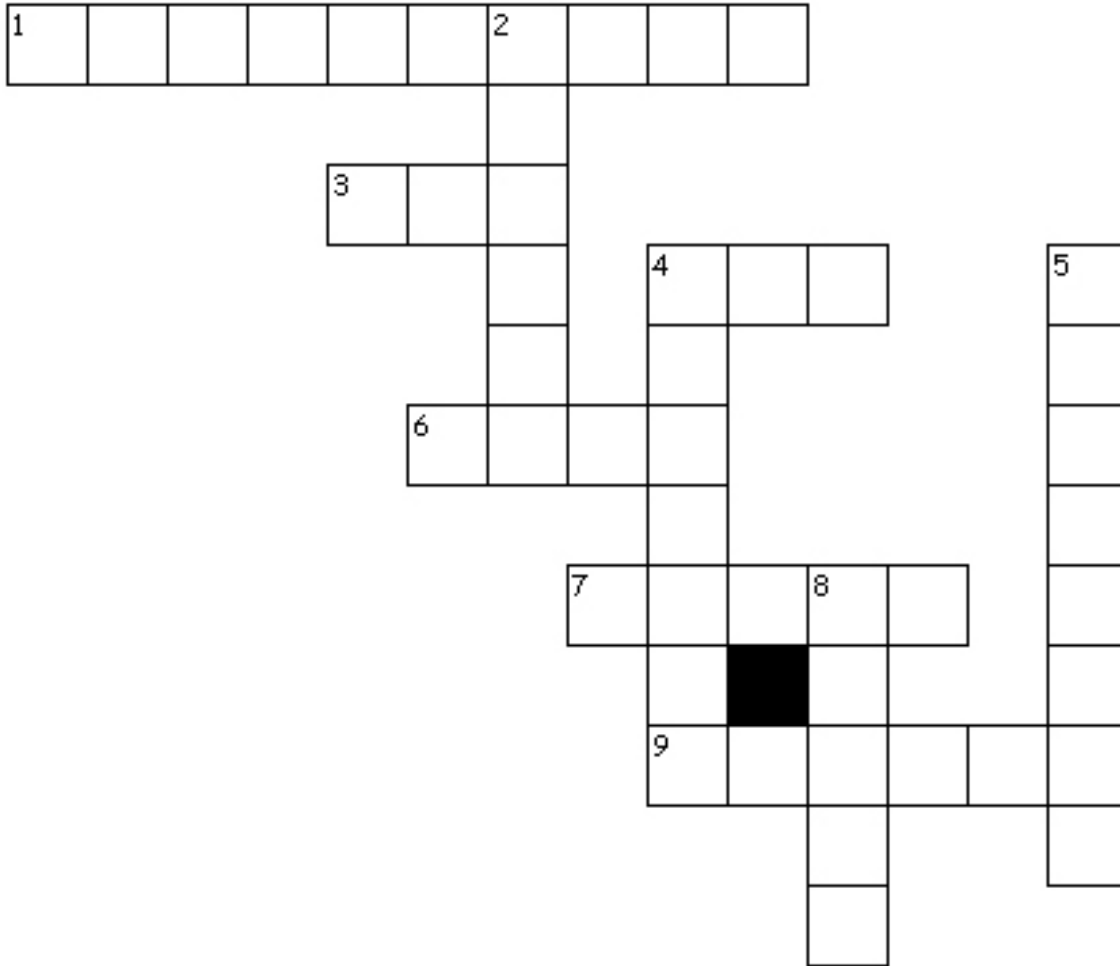
(The answer key is on the last page of the packet.)

Coloring Page

Color the picture below. Draw some more nuts inside the chipmunk's hollow stump!



Winter Animals Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. If an animal goes into a deep sleep all winter long we say that it _____.
3. This animal hibernates in caves during the winter.
4. This is a safe spot like a hollow log where an animal can hibernate.
6. This warm-blooded animal stays active in the winter and eats twigs and bark.
7. This is an animal's winter store of food (like a squirrels store of nuts).
9. This animal buries itself in the mud at the bottom of a pond to hibernate.

Down

2. If an animal stays on the move in winter to find food and stay warm we say that it is _____.
4. If an animal sleeps a lot in the winter but doesn't hibernate we say that it is _____.
5. If an animal makes a long journey to spend the winter somewhere else we say that it _____.
8. This wetland bird migrates south to spend the winter.

active	den	turtle	bat	heron
dormant	cache	hibernates	migrates	deer

(The answer key is on the last page of the packet.)

Answer Key

Match the Animal with its Winter State

	Active	Dormant	Hibernate	Migrate
Cottontail Rabbit	X			
Fox	X			
Black Bear		X		
Woodchuck (Groundhog)			X	
Raccoon		X		
Little Brown Bat			X	X
Squirrel	X			
Monarch Butterfly				X
White-tailed Deer	X			
Skunk		X		
Opossum	X			
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel			X	
Hummingbird				X

Winter Animals Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. hibernates
3. bat
4. den
6. deer
7. cache
9. turtle

Down

2. active
4. dormant
5. migrates
8. heron