



My nature connection

ANIMALS IN THE WINTER

GRADES: K-4
TIME: 20 min

HOW DO ANIMALS SURVIVE IN THE WINTER?

When winter starts, many humans decide to wear layers of warm clothing and stay indoors. Animals don't have that choice- so how do they make it through the long, cold winters around the world?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Printout of page 2 of this lesson
- Pen or pencil

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS



Polar bears are covered in thick fur that traps in heat, even in brutally cold weather. In fact, polar bears are more likely to get overheated rather than cold, especially when running. Even though their fur looks white, it is actually transparent and reflects the sunlight, much like the snow! They have a thick layer of fat — often over 4 inches — that helps keep them warm even while swimming.

Arctic hares change the color of their fur based on the season. In the summer months, they are a light brown color. This changes to white in the winter to blend in with the snow and hide from predators. Hares also have long front claws that allow them to dig under packed snow for food like woody plants.



Snowy owls live up north in the tundra - a large area mostly flat and without trees. Snowy owls blend into their surroundings with their white and brown feathers, which are also thick enough to keep them warm. Since the owls cannot see their prey (small rodents) beneath the snow, the owls fly low to the ground and rely on incredible hearing to hunt their food.

THERE ARE MANY ANIMALS HIDING IN THE SNOW!
CAN YOU FIND AND CIRCLE...

 8 RABBITS

 2 ARCTIC FOXES

 2 BLUE BIRDS

 1 POLAR BEAR

 1 WHITE BIRD

 1 OWL



CONNECTING WITH QUESTIONS

- What animals do you see outside in the winter near you?
- You probably see more animals outside in the summer than in the winter. Where do you think they go?

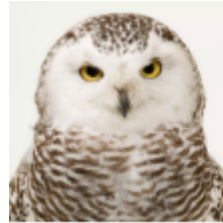
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Polar Bear Facts & Conservation - Polar Bears...

All about polar bears, from polar be...

polarbearsinternational.org



Snowy Owl | National...

See how the snowy owl survives the harsh environment of the Arctic...

nationalgeographic.com

<https://www.sciencemadesimple.com/animals.html>

SURVEY FEEDBACK

take a short survey at: campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection

or here: Kids Survey - [click here](#) | Teachers/Parents Survey - [click here](#)