

# Hibernation

*A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Reader*

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# Hibernation



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Level G Leveled Reader  
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A deer eats bark.

## Food Is Scarce

Many places have cold winters. Some animals in these places have trouble finding food in the winter.



Birds fly south.

Some animals move to warmer places to find food. Other animals hibernate.



Bats sleep.

## What Is Hibernating?

Hibernating is like a very sound sleep.

Hibernating animals sleep many days without waking up.



a black bear in a den

When an animal hibernates,  
its breathing slows down.  
Its heart beats more slowly.  
It does not need to eat.



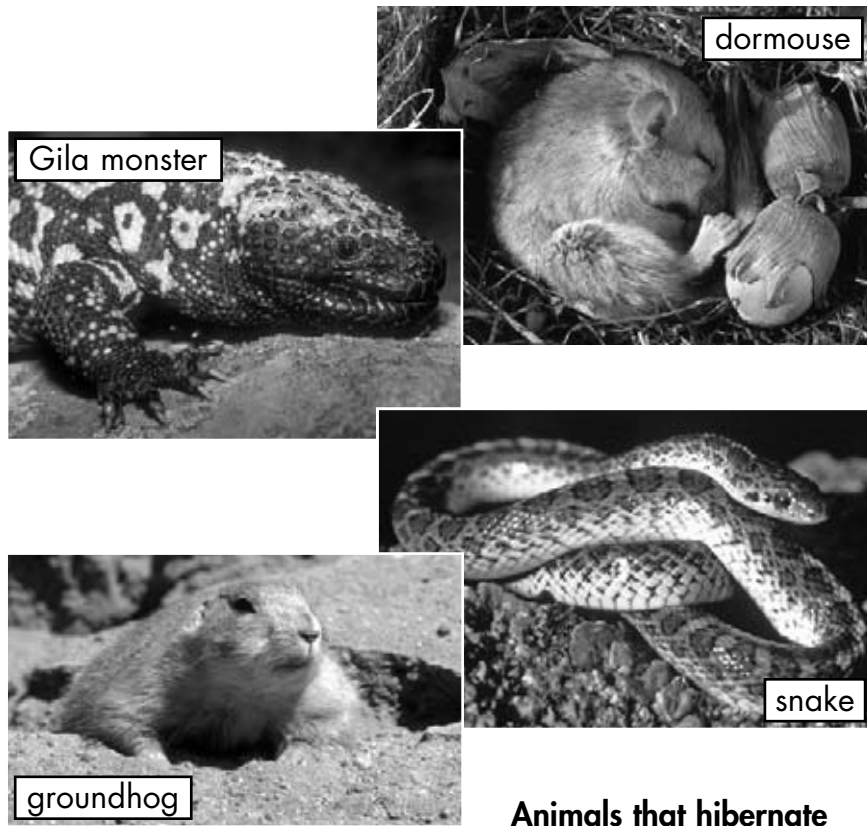
Raccoons collect food.

## How Do They Stay Alive?

Hibernating animals stay  
alive by eating lots of food  
before winter begins.

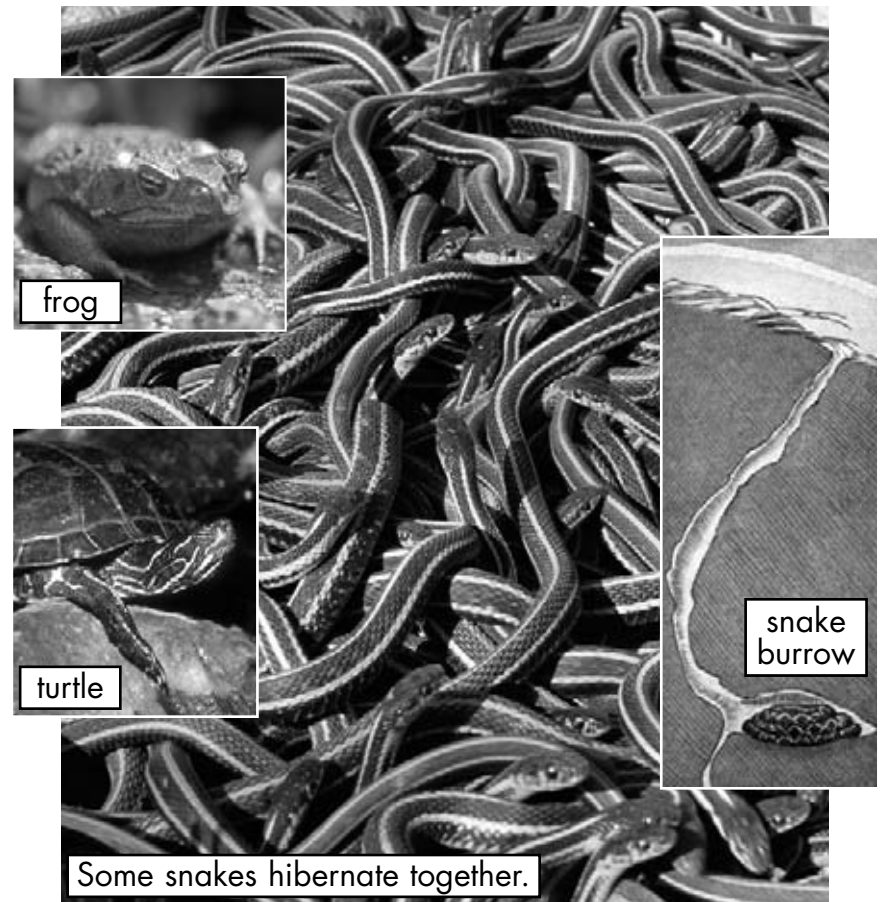
They store the food in their  
bodies as fat.

Their bodies live off this stored  
fat while they sleep.



Animals that hibernate

They also need a safe place to sleep.  
 They need to be safe from the cold and wind.  
 They need to be safe from hungry animals.



**Who Hibernates?**  
 Hibernating snakes sleep underground in burrows.  
 Frogs and turtles sleep in mud at the bottom of ponds.



A prairie dog wakes up.

Some mice, squirrels, and bats hibernate all winter. Bears, raccoons, and skunks might wake up to eat on a warm winter day. In the spring, all the hibernating animals wake up.

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