

Name _____

Hibernation

Learn facts about why animals hibernate.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

During the winter, some animals go into hibernation, which is a dormant state like sleep, when the animal's heartbeat slows down considerably, sometimes to only two beats each minute. Animals hibernate during the winter when there is no food and the weather is very cold. Hamsters, woodchucks, ground squirrels, and bats are some animals that hibernate. Many people think that bears hibernate, but while they do slow down in the winter, they do not go into true hibernation. Before hibernating, animals store up as much food as they can. Some animals eat the food and store it as body fat; others just store the food. Animals also must make a shelter before they fall into their deep sleep. Some animals do this some kind of thing during the summer. Some frogs and fish bury themselves in mud in places where it is too hot and dry to survive during the summer. This is called aestivation. These are important processes of survival for animals that live in harsh climates.

1. Describe what steps an animal must take before hibernation. _____

2. What happens to an animal's body during hibernation? _____

3. Do bears hibernate? _____

4. What is aestivation? _____

5. List some animals that hibernate or aestivate. _____
