



“Hibernation and Estivation”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁵⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Some animals hibernate or go into a deep sleep as an adaptation to the cold months of winter. **Hibernation** is different from normal sleep. During hibernation, an animal seems to be dead. Its **metabolism** slows down and its body temperature drops. Its heartbeat slows to only two or three beats a minute. Since its bodily processes are so slow, it needs very little food to stay alive. Some animals which hibernate are toads, skunks, ground squirrels, bees, and bats. Bears sleep during the winter, but they are not true hibernators. They wake up when they hear loud noises. Some animals estivate, or go into a deep sleep as an **adaptation** to the hot, dry months of summer. During **estivation**, an animal’s heartbeat and breathing slow down. During estivation, an animal does not grow or move. It does not need to eat because it is not using much energy. Some animals **burrow** underground, where it is cooler, before they begin to estivate. Some animals which estivate are reptiles, bees, hedgehogs, frogs, toads, and earthworms.

Questions:

Vocabulary:



1) Which animals both hibernate and estivate?

- A. bees
- B. toads
- C. bears
- D. Both A and B are correct.

2) Hibernation is like estivation because ...

- A. both happen in winter.
- B. both are adaptations.
- C. both happen in summer.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

3) Animals need little food during ...

- A. estivation
- B. hibernation
- C. cold weather
- D. Both A and B are correct.



4) Bears aren’t true hibernators because ...

- A. they wake up to loud noises.
- B. they sleep all summer.
- C. they burrow underground.
- D. they adapt well to heat.

5) Estivation happens during ...

- A. the cold months of winter.
- B. the hot, wet months of summer.
- C. the hot, dry months of summer.
- D. None of the above

1) For some animals, **hibernation** is ...

- A. an adaptation to the cold.
- B. a result of hunger.
- C. a reaction to heat.
- D. a heart problem.

2) An animal’s **metabolism** means its ...

- A. appearance in winter
- B. body temperature
- C. bodily processes
- D. Both B and C are correct.

3) **Estivation** is ...

- A. a reaction to cold weather.
- B. extreme hunger.
- C. an adaptation to heat.
- D. None of the above

4) **Adaptations** are some of the ways that animals ...

- A. adjust to temperatures.
- B. survive during extreme conditions.
- C. react to climate.
- D. All of the above

5) When animals **burrow**, they ...

- A. fall asleep.
- B. dig under the earth.
- C. sleep during the day.
- D. Both B and C are correct.