

WHERE THE WILD ONES LEARN

Hibernation Nature Study

PRIMARY

AGES AROUND 5-11

THROUGH THE WILD LENS™

Winter wildlife, questions and investigations

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36-PAGE NATURE STUDY

Compare three mammal hibernators

You might need: The photographs and sources on pages 6, 8 and 10; optional comparison table or movable labels.

KEEP ONE COMPARISON CLEAR

Compare European hedgehog, hazel dormouse and greater horseshoe bat. All can use hibernation, but their food, movement and shelter differ.

BUILD AN EXPLANATION

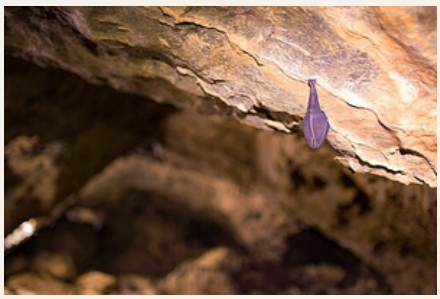
Choose one feature to compare, such as winter shelter or access to food before winter. Use the profiles and their linked guides. Say whether your answer comes from observation, a source or an inference.

GO DEEPER IF USEFUL

Why would one kind of shelter not suit all three? A learner may make a table, talk through the photographs or direct an adult to arrange them. Do not turn the comparison into a requirement to remember every scientific name.







European hedgehog. Pieter Delicaat (CC BY-SA 4.0).
Hazel dormouse. xulescu_g (CC BY-SA 2.0).
Greater horseshoe bat. Kingfiser (CC BY-SA 4.0).

Use measurements to answer the question

You might need: The invented cooling table; optional calculator, paper or accessible graphing tool.

AN INVENTED EXAMPLE

The table is practice data, not measurements of an animal or a real shelter. Compare the temperature drop over the same ten minutes.

WORK THROUGH IT

Both containers start at 35°C. The covered container ends at 29°C, a fall of 6°C. The uncovered one ends at 23°C, a fall of 12°C. In this example, the covered container cooled less.

KEEP THE CONCLUSION SMALL

This single comparison does not identify the best wildlife shelter. Repeat with the same method if you want to check consistency. Missing readings remain missing.

CHOOSE A RECORD

A table, two labelled lines, coloured counters or a spoken comparison can all show the result. Use the method that serves the learner’s question.

Cooling comparison

Time (min)	Covered (°C)	Uncovered (°C)
0	35	35
5	32	28
10	29	23

Invented practice data • one trial per condition