

ANIMAL PLANET

Animal Planet Dogs <http://animal.discovery.com/videos/dogs-101-puppies/>

<http://animal.discovery.com/videos/dogs-101-biggest-dog-breeds-videos/>

<http://animal.discovery.com/videos/dogs-101-rare-dog-breeds/>

Animals in winter

1. Reminiscence and discussion

Talk with the group about what happens to animals at this time, how they prepare for winter – grow thicker fur, store up fat on their bodies over summer to prepare for hibernation, some mass together for warmth (wrens), hide food stores (squirrels).

Ask the group to name as many animals as they can that hibernate (hedgehogs, bears – who often give birth to their cubs when hibernating – tortoises, some insects such as ladybirds and peacock butterflies). NB Squirrels don't fully hibernate – they slow down and use their food stores to tide them over...if they can remember where they hid them!

Did anyone own a tortoise? What happened to it in winter? Does the group remember the Blue Peter tortoise being put away to hibernate?

Does anyone feed the birds? What do they give the birds to eat? Has anyone got any stories about the antics of the squirrels on the bird table? Does the group think the warmer winters are having an effect on animals that hibernate?

Ask how they or their parents prepared for wintertime...did they make jams? Pickles?

Bottle fruit and vegetables from the garden? Store apples and pears on special shelves? String onions? Salt meat? Tell how the Romans used to fatten dormice in special jars to provide some meat for hard times. Dovecotes were also used as a source of fresh meat. In many countries meat is dried to enable it to be kept for a long time – ask if anyone has tried dried meat – and in freezing climates meat is stored in ice.

Ask the group what is the strangest meat they have eaten.

Did anyone live on a farm? How did they prepare for winter? Store root vegetables? Feed for the animals? Silage or hay? Did they bring the animals inside? If hill farmers – how did they get the sheep down off the hills? Did the animals ever go hungry in the severe winters of long ago? How do their pets behave during the cold weather? Do some of them wear coats/boots? Do they struggle to get them to go out?

2. Animal quiz

Use the flipchart to write the answers, as there may be more than one

What animals:

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. Carry their young in a pouch? | kangaroos, wallabies |
| 2. Have stripes? | tigers, zebras, skunks |
| 3. Have bushy tails? | squirrels |
| 4. Sleep by day upside-down? | bats |
| 5. Live mostly in trees? | apes, monkeys, birds |
| 6. Have very long necks? | giraffes |
| 8. Have bodies covered in spines? | hedgehogs, porcupines |
| 9. Have one or two humps on their backs? | camels |

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| 10. Like to build dams? | beavers |
| 11. Are called 'man's best friend'? | dogs |
| 12. Are the King of the Beasts? | lions |
| 13. Kill snakes? | mongooses |
| 14. Have cloven hooves? | cows, deer, sheep, goats |
| 15. Can be ridden? | horses, donkeys', camels |
| 16. Have retractable claws? | cats |
| 17. Live in the sea? | whales, dolphins, seals, walrus |
| 18. Have tusks? | walrus, elephants, wild boars |
| 19. Only eat bamboo shoots? | pandas |
| 20. Roll in a ball for protection? | hedgehogs |

3. See how many words can be made from: HIBERNATION.

4. Animal metaphors:

Read out the first part of the saying for the group to complete either individually or as a group.

As busy as...a bee

As tall as...a giraffe

As fat as...a pig

As slow as...a snail

As wise as...an owl

As big as...an elephant

As sly as...a fox

As strong as...an ox

As bold as...a lion

As sleek as...a cat

As stubborn as...a mule

As silly as...a goose

As free as...a bird

As meek as...a lamb

As slow as...a tortoise

As cunning as...a box of monkeys

As small as...a mouse

As ancient as...a dinosaur

As proud as...a peacock

As quiet as...a mouse

As cold as...a fish

As mad as...a bull (or March hare)

As weak as...a kitten

As blind as...a bat

As hungry as...a horse

As happy as...a lark

As cheeky as...a monkey

As happy as a dog with...two tails

Here's another link, this is related to the residents' extensive US travel:

For theme: Travel

Discovery site: National Parks <http://dsc.discovery.com/videos/discover-national-parks/>