What is Hibernation?

Objective

Find out what hibernation is and why it is an adaptation to winter weather.

Introduction

The weather gets colder, days get shorter and leaves turn color and fall off the trees. Soon, winter is here. Snow covers the ground. People live in warm houses and wear heavy coats outside. Our food comes from the grocery store. But what happens to the animals?

Procedure

- Turn on the computer and log in using your assigned username and password.
- Launch Mozilla Firefox to access the Internet.
- Choose among the following web sites to search for information:
  - www.sciencemadesimple.net
  - school.discovery.com
  - encarta.msn.com
  - www.pbs.org
- Find articles related to "HIBERNATION" by typing that word inside the search boxes.
- Read some of the articles.
- Fill out the graphic organizer.
- Use OpenOffice to answer the questions in the last page of this worksheet. Insert at least a couple of pictures.
When does hibernation take place?

Why is hibernation important?

Animals that hibernate

Animals that do NOT hibernate

Hibernation is...
Questions

1) Write down three new facts about hibernation that you did not know before reading these articles. Elaborate your answers.

2) What is the body temperature of a hibernating black bear?

True or False

Write ‘true’ when the statement is true. When false, change it to make it true.

1) Hibernation is a special, very deep sleep.
2) During hibernation, the animal’s heartbeat speeds up.
3) The biggest problem for most animals in the winter is finding enough food.
4) The largest hibernators are the bears.

Written essay

You are a hibernator. In a few lines, write a letter to a friend living in the Caribbean saying:

1) How you spend wintertime.
2) Whether you like hibernating and why.