

# LIFE WHEN IT'S SNOWY

Dear Teachers,

When the Metroparks Mobile Learning Center visits your school, your students will have fun learning about how animals in Michigan survive winter. Below is an outline of the activities your students will be engaged in during the "Life When It's Snowy" program. A pre-visit activity is provided to prepare students for the information covered. We look forward to sharing with your students.

## School-visit Program Outline:

- Read Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
- Pretend to be a bear in different seasons
- Feel black bear fur
- Sing Life When It's Snowy Song
- Puppet show
- Discuss hibernators, show groundhog mount, bring groundhog fur to feel
- Discuss nappers, show chipmunk mount, sing chipmunk song
- Discuss migrators, show duck & hummingbird, pretend to be a hummingbird
- Discuss animals that stay here, show camouflage examples, bring around hare and weasel furs to feel
- Sing Life When It's Snowy song again

## Exploring the Seasons

Instructions: Have students draw pictures of each of the four seasons. Assist them by explaining common characteristics of each season. This activity is meant to get students thinking about seasonal differences in temperature and precipitation.

### "What Am I?"

Instructions: This game is meant to get children thinking about the kinds of animals we will discuss during the program. It will also introduce animals the students may not be very familiar with, but that are central to the lesson we will be giving.

If possible, print out the images of the bear, groundhog, chipmunk, hummingbird, white-tailed deer and weasel beforehand or display them on a projector so the children can have options to point to the pictures if they do not know the name of the animal. Read the clues for each animal and have the students guess which animal you are talking about. Show them a picture of the correct animal.

Bear clues: I live in the forest and eat both plants and animals. I am a very big animal who sleeps in a den. I can have thick brown or black fur. My babies are called cubs. I looove honey. What am I?

Groundhog clues: I am a big brown rodent. I look kind of like a beaver, but without the big flappy tail. If I see my shadow that means six more weeks of winter! Some people call me a woodchuck. What am I?

Chipmunk clues: I am a tiny little rodent with stripes on my back. I have big chubby cheeks. People often think I am a mouse or a squirrel. I am a part of Alvin and the \_\_\_\_\_. What am I?

Hummingbird clues: I am the smallest bird in Michigan. You can find me humming around flowers looking for food. I use my very long beak to get to the food I need. I am usually very brightly colored. What am I?

Deer clues: I am a brown animal with hooves and antlers, if I'm a boy. I have a white-tail that I wave around if there is danger. I am related to moose. What am I?

Hare clues: I am a fluffy little animal with soft fur and big ears. I love to hop around using my big back feet. What am I?

Weasel clues: I am small and I have a very long body. I am sneaky and you probably wouldn't see me running around outside. You may have seen my cousin though, if you have seen a ferret.

## School-visit Song:

### Life When It's Snowy (to the tune of Frosty the Snowman)

Life when it's snowy  
Can be hard for some they say  
But you can sleep or fly  
Or use the snow to hide  
Until the spring comes back one day

Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Look at rabbit go  
Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Over the hills of snow

Down in the forest  
There are some built for the cold  
Weasel, deer, or hare  
Ask them if they care  
They put coats on when it's cold

Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Look at rabbit go  
Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Over the hills of snow

There must something special in the wilds of Michigan  
The winter brings us snow and cold  
But in nature there's a plan

Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Look at rabbit go  
Hoppity hop hop  
Hoppity hop hop  
Over the hills of snow

### Chipmunk Song (to tune of Come Go With Me by the Del- Vikings)

Chipmunks live down, down, down, down, down  
Chipmunks live down, down, down, down, down  
Chipmunks live down, down, down, down, down  
Chipmunks live down, under the ground

