

Surviving in a Winter Wonderland

Scavenger hunt answers



Winter is no wonderland for many organisms. As you explore the museum, discover some of the amazing adaptations organisms have for surviving the harsh conditions of winter.

Hint: Not all of the answers can be found in the exhibits!

Atrium:

What adaptations does a whale have that make it suited to a wintery environment? Write down an adaptation for each condition.

Cold water: Many answers: blubber, fat, large body volume

Dark: Use sound to communicate

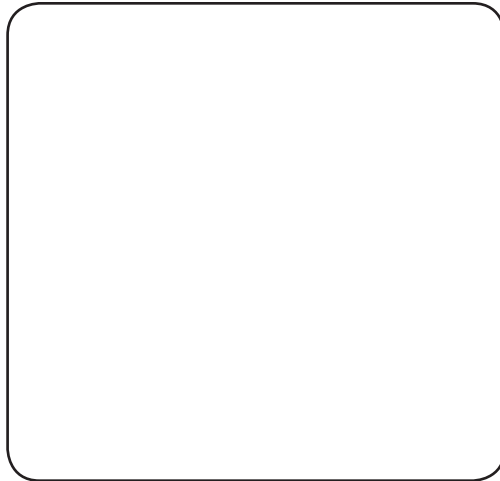
Scarce food: Migrate to rich feeding grounds

Tetrapods:

Draw one mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian on display that lives in a cold place.

How do you think it is adapted to survive the cold?

Drawings will vary. Have students read the information panels and examine specimens.

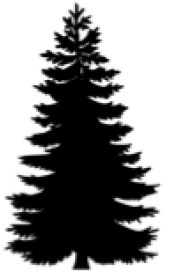


Herbarium:

What are some differences between deciduous trees and coniferous trees? What happens to them in the winter?

Deciduous trees drop their leaves to conserve energy in the winter, coniferous trees are evergreen.

Look at this tree silhouette. What type of tree do you think it is? Conifer - fir, pine, spruce, etc
Why? Shape is a large cone, similar to shapes in photos in the herbarium collection.



How is it adapted for the winter?
Sturdy and hardy, evergreen, can be smaller in colder climates.

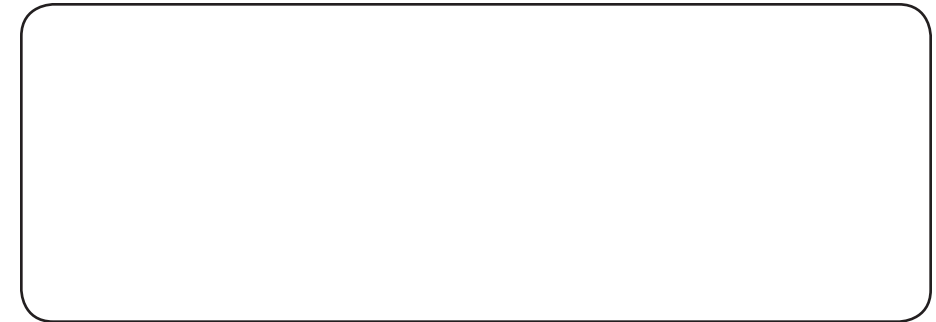
Entomology:

Most butterflies and moths in cold climates survive the winter as eggs laid the previous fall. How many species of moths and butterflies do we have in BC?

2101 moth species, 184 butterfly species

Fish:

What adaptations would make a fish suited to the winter? Draw a fish that would be a winter survival superstar. *Point out its adaptations.*



Fossils:

Rapid changes in climate are thought to be one of the causes of the largest mass extinction in earth's history. Referred to as "the Great Dying", how long ago did this extinction happen? *Hint: look in a drawer*
Approximately 251 million years ago (Permian-Triassic)

Most Amazing Strategies:

In your opinion, which two organisms have the most amazing survival strategies in the winter? Why?

1. Answers will vary.

2. _____
