



School Program Name: Animals in Winter

Name of Sanctuary: Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary

Grade Level: k-2

Location Options: In the classroom

Time: 1-2 hours

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617-489-5050

Program Description

- What strategies do animals use to adapt to colder weather?
- How does animal behavior change in winter?

Find out more about migration, hibernation and dormancy, which local animals employ these strategies, and who remains active. Through this customized in-school program, students examine animal specimens, animal shelters, and a live animal visitor as they learn more about the strategies animals use to survive changing weather conditions. Birds, insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians will be represented. This interactive program takes place in a 3 station format to enable students to examine small details of our specimens.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology

Strand: Life Science

Topic: Characteristics of Living Things

Learning Standards

PreK-2 Life Science #7: Recognize changes in appearance that animals and plants go through as the seasons change.

PreK-2 Life Science #8: Identify the ways in which an organism's habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter).

PreK-2 Life Science #1: Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Strand: Earth and Space Science

Topic: Weather



Learning Standards

The Weather

PreK-2 Earth Science #3: Describe the weather changes from day to day and over the seasons.

Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Learn some strategies that animals use to survive in winter.
- Use observation skills to examine specimens.
- Understand winter conditions and the need for animals to change their behavior in order to survive.

Vocabulary

Migration

Hibernation

Active

Dormant

Camouflage

Shelter

Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

- Students will be able to utilize vocabulary to explain what they have learned about what some animals do in winter.
- Students will explain why animals change their behavior in winter (weather, food supply, etc.)

Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

- Students will share one thing they learned about animals in winter.
- What animal lives near you and what might it do to survive the winter?



Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
 - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
 - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
 - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
 - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
 - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
 - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
 - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.

