



School Program Name: Animals in Winter
Name of Sanctuary: North River Wildlife Sanctuary
Grade Level: PreK-2
Location Options: At sanctuary or school
Time: 1-2 hours
For more info: southshore@massaudubon.org or
781-837-9400

Program Description

During the fall, animals begin preparations to help them survive winter in New England. While some are forced to migrate away, many animals have special characteristics and behaviors that allow them to deal with the colder temperatures and lack of food resources. Through explorations and activities, participants will learn how native wildlife responds to seasonal changes.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology
Strand: Life Science
Topic: Characteristics of Living Things
Living Things and Their Environment

Learning Standards

Characteristics of Living Things

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

Living Things and Their Environment

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).

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: English Language Arts
Strand: Language
Topic: Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

Learning Standards

Questioning, Listening, and Contributing



PreK-12 Language #2: Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.

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:

- Identify the ways in which an animal's habitat provides for its basic needs.
- Name a behavior or characteristic that helps an animal survive in the winter.
- Give examples of New England animals that hibernate, go dormant, stay active, or migrate.

Vocabulary

Adaptation

Behavior

Dormant

Fur

Feather

Camouflage

Habitat

Hibernate

Migrate

Assessments

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

- Students will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions to identify what animals need to survive during the winter.
- Students will understand how animals change in appearance as the seasons change by participating in a Mass Audubon Educator-prompted discussion or participating in a role-playing activity.





- Students will identify appropriate wintering habitats for some common New England wildlife.

Summarizer

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

- Students will participate in a sorting activity to identify animals that migrate, hibernate, go dormant or remain active during the winter.
- Using a large mural of a winter scene and assorted pictures of common local animals, students will place their animal in an appropriate winter habitat and explain why that location was chosen.



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.

