

Activity 4.11

HOW DO SEASONS AFFECT ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS?

Materials Needed

- Pictures of butterfly, migratory bird (Arctic tern, Canada goose) local year-round bird, squirrel, rabbit, earthworm, snake, bear, deer, elk, whale, and pictures of people from Activity 4.1
- Map of the world
- Globe
- Cards labeled “Hibernate,” “Migrate,” “Adapt”

Procedure

1. Place the three cards at the top of the table. Discuss the meaning of each word with your teacher.
2. Look at the map and the globe of the earth. Usually there is less seasonal change near the middle, or the *equator*. As you travel north or south toward the poles, seasonal changes become greater. Find the place where you live. How far are you from the equator, and from the North Pole or South Pole?
3. Oceans and other large bodies of water affect land temperature. Water does not change in temperature as rapidly as land does. If you live near an ocean, changes in seasons may not be as great. Does a large body of water affect your climate? How?
4. Study the pictures of animals. See how many pictures you can match with the three cards to show how these animals adapt to seasonal change.
5. With your teacher and other members of the group, discuss your reasons for grouping the pictures the way you did. Why do you think some animals migrate, while others stay and adapt to seasonal change?

For Problem Solvers: Do people migrate? Think about people you know who move from one place to another throughout the year. Write a list of examples of people you know or can find out about.

Teacher Information

Animals have different ways of adapting to seasonal change, mostly due to the availability of food. Some hibernate in a completely resting stage. Some animals, such as bears, increase their rest and reduce their level of activity but do not completely hibernate.

Many animals remain active in the same area year-round and utilize whatever food is available.

Animal migration is a fascinating area of study. You may find high student interest and extend your study beyond the information introduced here.

In past times caribou, buffalo, and reindeer existed in great numbers. As these animals migrated with seasonal change, men who depended on them for their existence (food and clothing) also migrated.

INTEGRATING: Language arts, social studies

SKILLS: Observing, inferring, classifying, measuring, predicting, communicating, comparing and contrasting, using space-time relationships, formulating hypotheses, experimenting, researching