



## “Exploring How Animals Survive the Winter” Winter Third Grade In-Class Activity

**Michigan Science Objectives:** At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. State the behavioral adaptations of several animals to winter (Living Things 4).
2. State the evolutionary adaptations of several animals to winter (Evolution 2).

**Thinking Skills:** Observe and synthesize.

**Overview of Activity:** Students learn about a Native American interpretation of an animal’s adaptation. Then, in groups, the students observe taxidermy mounts to brainstorm how each animal is physically and behaviorally adapted to survive the winter.

**National Park Connection:** Some animals with unique adaptations to winter (bison, grizzly bears) find protected homes in National Parks around the country!

### Procedure:

1. Read and discuss the Ojibway story, “How Turtle Flew South for the Winter.”
2. Display taxidermy mounted specimens for the students to work in groups to examine, discuss, and make list of way each animal has physical and behavioral adaptations to survive in its environment.
3. Review the lists and brainstorm physical and behavioral adaptations of each creature to winter. Discuss.
4. Have students use colored pencils to draw and name an imaginary animal. Also, have the students list the adaptations this “animal” has to its environment!

**Materials needed:** Ojibway story “How Turtle Flew South for the Winter,” several taxidermy mounted specimens, paper and colored pencils.

