

Hibernating Bears

Science Experiment



Method

1. Begin by talking about hibernation. Tell the children that some animals (like bears and hedgehogs) have a long, deep sleep during the cold winter months. This is called hibernation.
2. Explain that to keep warm whilst they are hibernating, many animals grow extra layers of fur or fat and make cosy warm nests or dens to sleep in.
3. Then an adult should fill the hot water bottles with hot (not boiling) water from the kettle and secure the lids.
4. The children can then hold each of the hot water bottles to feel how warm they are.
5. The furry cover or fabric should then be wrapped around one of the hot water bottles and a Hibernating Bear Cut-Out stuck onto each hot water bottle.
6. Explain that one of the hot water bottle bears is going inside his cosy cave to sleep but the other one is not.
7. Encourage the children to place the fur-covered hot water bottle into the cardboard box and cover with the leaves. The other hot water bottle should be left uncovered.
8. Over the course of a few hours the hot water bottles can be felt to see which one cools the quickest. Encourage the children to talk about why they think the fur-covered one stays warmer for a longer length of time. Link the discussions to animals when they hibernate, and to the children's own experiences of wrapping up warm when it is cold.

You will need:

2 hot water bottles
(1 with a furry cover or some furry fabric)

Kettle of hot water

Cardboard box

Autumn leaves

Hibernating Bear Cut-Outs

Sticky tape