



## Winter Adaptations FACEBOOK Project!

**Background:** New York winter weather...we've grown up with it, but by mid-March or early-April every year, have you ever found yourself asking "*How in the world did I survive another New York winter?!?!?*" Relative to other species, it's actually pretty easy for us (humans) to adapt and survive; we throw on a heavy coat, mittens, and boots. We put some snow tires on the car, and we're on our way, carrying on as we would any other day of the year. It's not so easy for many of our furry friends! In fact, many local wildlife species grow special coats of fur for winter weather. What about the not-so-furry, but rather scaly or feathery wildlife, you ask? Well, they have to adapt too...or book a ticket out of here for a few months.

We've briefly talked about some of the *physiological* and *behavioral* adaptations that some of our local wildlife species have acquired to survive the shift to winter weather in our temperate deciduous forest biome. Now, it's your turn to investigate one of those adaptations in depth and creatively present the information that you find, in research groups, on Facebook pages!

### Objectives:

1. To conduct research in small groups about why and how local wildlife species adapt to winter weather in our biome. Each group will research one adaptation.
2. To creatively express the information through a new project format in an effort to help each other learn about winter weather adaptations.
3. To appropriately evaluate classmates' work in a fun way - you'll write on their wall!

### Components:

- **Group Pages:** (one group page to be completed for EACH GROUP, as a group)

#### Type

-What winter adaptation are you researching? Include that here.

#### Description

-Describe the adaptation that your group has been assigned. All of the profile pages you create will be members of this group - therefore, they all have acquired this winter adaptation.

-This section should be written as though you are presenting it to an audience that doesn't really know anything about the adaptation (HINT: It doesn't have to be really wordy.).

#### Recent News

-general information about the physiological (body systems) and behavioral changes involved in this adaptation

-Have any of your animals recently adapted to winter weather?

-Example Recent News Topic: "Black bears in hibernation across New York State"

## Discussion Board

- another place to discuss the adaptation and what may affect its occurrence/necessity
- Example Discussion Topic: "Recent warm weather brings houseflies out of diapause."
- Example Discussion Topic: "A Warming Climate Causes Birds to Migrate Early"

## The Wall

- This is where your classmates will comment on your group members' pages

## Members

- Don't forget to add members to the group page (the animals on the actual profile pages you've created)!

- **Profile Pages:** (four animal profile pages per group; 4 animals that utilize the winter adaptation that your group has been assigned to research)

## Information

- name of animal species (common name and Latin species name - *Genus species*)
- should be NYS wildlife species!!!

## About Me

- habitat, eating habits, home range, when does this animal "change" for winter
- changes the animal experiences to adapt to winter weather

## Interests

- Have fun with this section. Include interesting, but relevant material. BE CREATIVE!!! ☺

## Activities

- What does this animal do during the winter?
- How does this animal survive winter?

## Favorite Places

- Where is this animal found during the winter?
- Example: Where do bears hibernate?
- Example: Where do species of frogs "freeze" for winter?

### \*Additional Sections

- if there are any other sections that you would really like to add to your profile page, you may do so on the back of the profile sheet
- before you create another section, though, make sure that you have all of the required information included in the sections that are already there.

→ **Also:** Mini-feed (up to you but appropriate), Profile pic (up to you, but relevant to content about the biome)

### \*Reminders

- HAVE FUN!
- remember that there is specific information that you must include
- be creative, but appropriate ☺
- USE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS AS A RESOURCE DURING WORK PERIODS!!!