

Hibernate or Not?

Which of these British mammals hibernates, and which doesn't?



1. Hedgehog



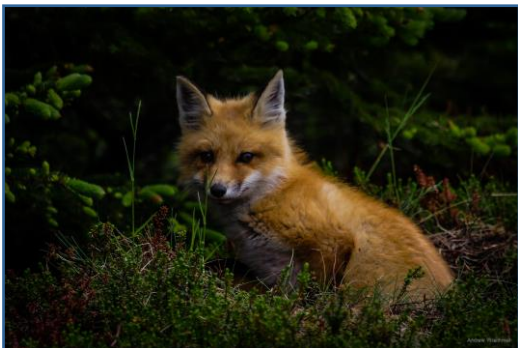
2. Grey Squirrel



3. Pipistrelle Bat



4. Dormouse



5. Red Fox



6. Badger

Hibernate or Not? answers

Which of the animals from the puzzle page are hibernators? Find out here...

1. Hedgehog

Hibernator. Hedgehogs hibernate from around November through until March/April, although this depends on the weather. In milder winters, hedgehogs can stay active until later in the year. They will spend the autumn building their fat reserves, and find a sheltered spot to wait out the winter cold.



2. Grey Squirrel

Squirrels are not true hibernators. They are not fond of the cold, and will stay in their dreys on chilly days. In the warmer months, squirrels will work to hoard food in many different places – a behaviour we also call caching. They are pretty good at remembering where they have hidden their food in the winter too.



3. Pipistrelle Bat

Hibernator. Bats hibernate from November, and may not be fully active again until May. They will find a place to roost that remains at a constant temperature – places like caves, trees and buildings.



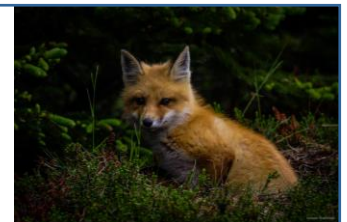
4. Dormouse

Hibernator. Dormice hibernate for many months in nests on the ground. Famous for their hibernation, the name dormouse comes from the French dormir or Latin dormire meaning to sleep.



5. Red Fox

Foxes are common across Britain. They are adapting to life in towns and cities as well as the countryside. Courtship takes place over winter, and it is the best time to hear the call of the vixens (females).



6. Badger

Badgers don't hibernate but they are not as active over winter. They feed more in the autumn to build up their fat reserves, helping them to survive in the colder months.

