

# On a Snowy Day

An outdoor winter  
walk adventure!

Are you tired of being inside this winter? Bundle up and let's go outside for a winter walk adventure! We will explore how local animals are handling winter!



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**Exploring the outdoors is a great time to practice using your different senses. As you enjoy the outdoors, try out some of the following.**



**Look:** pay attention to details that you haven't noticed before. Do you see patterns? Textures? Colors? Shapes?



**Listen:** maybe close your eyes. What do you hear? Leaves blowing in the wind? Birds calling? Water flowing or dripping?

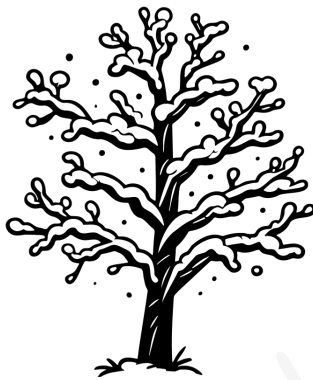


**Feel:** notice how the cold air feels on your face. Notice how different surfaces and textures feel under your hand. Tree bark? A fallen leaf? A stone? Ice or snow?



# On a Snow Day

A blanket of winter snow can be a beautiful sight. It can also signify a new challenge for animals as it covers their usual food sources. But although snow and ice is very cold, would you believe that at times it can provide a warm shelter? It's cover can help regulate temperature underneath, protecting plants and animals from a freeze/melt cycle.



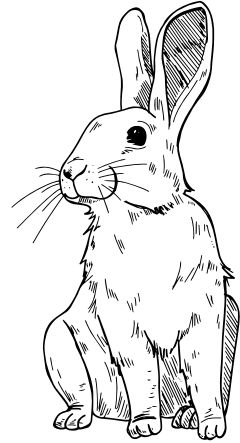
Do you see any ice or snow today? Do you see any animal prints in the snow? Or any places where an animal may have dug into the snow looking for food?

# Staying Cozy

Winter can be cold in Michigan! In order to manage the cold, animals have lots of different strategies. Here are a few of them!

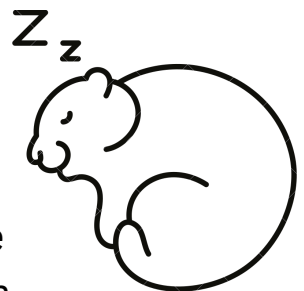


Billy the Bird fluffs her feathers out which traps in air and retains heat in cold temps



Rita the Rabbit grows a thick fur coat

Greg the Groundhog enters into hibernation with his body temperature and metabolism decreased to a level where he doesn't burn much energy and doesn't need to eat. We won't see much of him until the temps warm and he emerges from his underground den.



# The Beaver Family Lodge

Our neighborhood beavers don't hibernate, but they are less active during the winter. They build insulated structures called 'lodges' that have tunnels that exit into the water. It's a cozy winter resort!



Beavers store food underwater near their lodge so that they don't have to go far from home. They have a layer of waterproof fur that allows them to stay comfortable when swimming in the cold winter water!

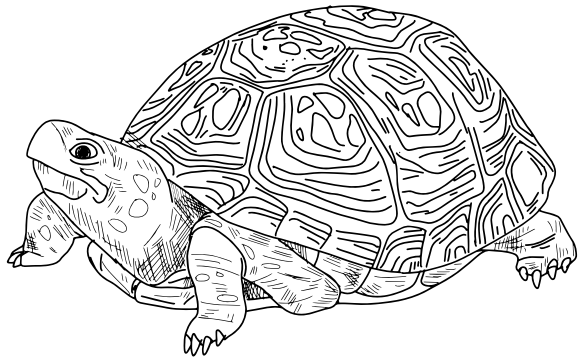


**What are some different ways you stay warm during the winter?**



# Finn the Frog & Tim the Turtle

Unlike mammals, amphibians and reptiles aren't able to grow thicker fur coats to stay warm! Because they are cold-blooded, they remain very inactive over the winter by lowering their body temperature and finding a safe place to stay out of the way. Some frogs even freeze completely solid! They are able to do this safely due to a special chemical in their blood that doesn't cause harm to their cells. Then they thaw out safely in the spring!



**Look** around you. Do you see any safe places for amphibians and reptiles to stay hidden during the winter? They like soft muddy areas in or next to bodies of water or under big logs.