

Hibernation

10 In the autumn, some of the native creatures of the
18 United Kingdom hibernate. Hibernation is like a deep
27 sleep that animals enter during the cold, harsh winter
35 months. It helps them conserve energy when food
38 supplies are limited.

45 Hibernation is also a self-protective behaviour as
52 hibernating creatures, such as dormice, hedgehogs and
61 bats, are safer from predators when they are snuggled
65 away in their burrows.

73 To prepare for the hibernation season, creatures will
77 prioritise two important tasks:

- 85 • finding a safe, secure hideaway to sleep in;
- 91 • maximising their calorie intake to ensure
- 98 they have enough fat stores and energy
- 104 to survive their months of sleeping.

112 Most hibernating creatures will wake up naturally when
114 spring arrives.

Questions



1. Look at the first paragraph.
Find and copy a word which means 'to save'
or 'preserve'.



2. Which of these creatures hibernate? Tick **two**.

- ☐ hedgehogs
☐ badgers
☐ dormice



3. Summarise the **two** important tasks that
hibernating creatures must do before autumn.



4. Why do some creatures hibernate?

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Answers



1. Look at the first paragraph.
Find and copy a word which means 'to save'
or 'preserve'.

conserve



2. Which of these creatures hibernate? Tick **two**.

☒ **hedgehogs**

☐ badgers

☒ **dormice**



3. Summarise the **two** important tasks that
hibernating creatures must do before autumn.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Hibernating
creatures must find a safe place to sleep
and eat as much food as they can.**



4. Why do some creatures hibernate?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Some creatures
hibernate to protect themselves from the harsh
winter conditions when food sources are limited.**