



Which animals hibernate?





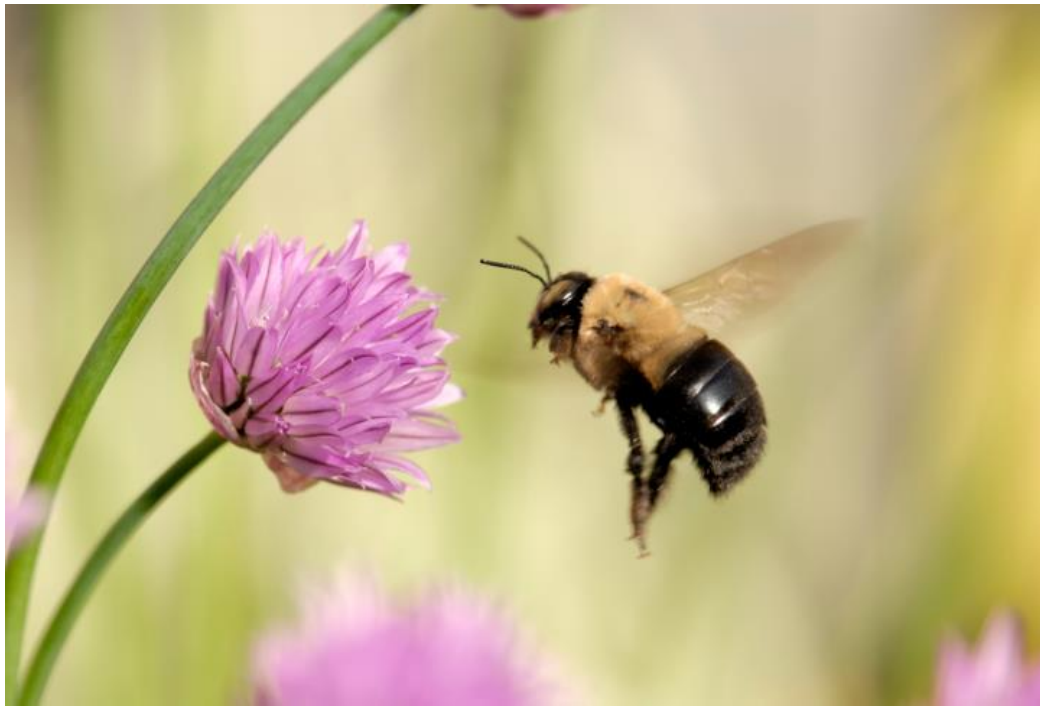
Hedgehogs hibernate when the weather gets cold. They sleep from October to April. They find a pile of leaves or bury into a compost heap, curl up into a tight ball and go to sleep.



Tortoises, although not found in the wild in Britain, do hibernate in their natural habitat. Most tortoises in this country are kept as pets and are housed in warm tanks and so no longer hibernate. Hibernating tortoises in the wild will bury into the ground or into piles of leaves and sleep until the spring.



Bats hibernate in caves, tunnels lofts and wall cavities and will sleep for long periods of time if the weather is very cold. They can live without food for very long periods of time but will sometimes wake up to drink.



When the temperature drops, males and worker bees die off but the queen survives by hibernating. She hibernates in a hole in the soil, in rotten tree stumps or under a pile of leaves. She will wake up 6-8 months later, warm-up and then find a nice spot to build a nest and create a whole new team of bees



Snails have a built in bed for their hibernation. They go into their shell, close up the hole with a skin made of chalk and slime that keeps the moisture in. During this time, they use almost no energy and don't have to eat anything at all. In some areas where there is little rain, snails can hibernate for years!



Frogs and toads hibernate as the weather gets colder.. They sleep in the mud at the bottom of ponds or , more often, they find a damp pile of leaves or a rotting log to hide under until the spring.



The Dormouse will hibernate from October to May and will go to sleep as soon as the first frost appears. They go to sleep in a nest on or near the ground, curling up into a tight ball. Their heart drops to 90% of its normal rate.



Can you remember which animals hibernate?

Can you think of any other animals that hibernate?

How could you find out?