

## Winter Wildlife Series:

### Week Four: *Mammals*

#### Vocabulary:

Mammal: An animal that has warm blood, gives birth to live young, and makes milk. Most mammals have fur.

Fur: The hair that covers a mammal's body, used for camouflage and staying warm in the winter.

Warm-blooded: An animal that can make their own body heat, the opposite of a cold blooded animal that gets all their heat from the sun or other outside sources.

#### Mammal Insulation Experiment:

##### Materials:

Large bowl or bucket, ice water, vegetable shortening, plastic gloves/bag (optional)

##### Directions:

1. Fill your bowl or bucket with ice water.
2. Cover one finger with shortening and leave another finger on your other hand clean and bare. *Note: You can also do this experiment with a plastic glove on.*
3. Stick both fingers in the ice water. The bare finger will get very cold, but the finger that is covered in shortening will stay warm, this is because shortening is a fat, and fat is a very good insulator. Lots of mammals manage to stay warm through the winter by having thick layers of fat on their bodies that insulate them from the cold!

#### Mammal Acrostic Poetry (PreK-2):

##### Materials:

Colored pencils, worksheet

##### Directions:

1. Fill in the blacks next to each letter with a nature word to make an acrostic poem. An acrostic poem is a vertical poem made up of many words whose first letters spell out a different word.
2. Color in the Forsyth Nature Center mammals.

#### All or Some? (3-5):

##### Materials:

\_\_\_\_\_ Pencil

##### Directions:

1. Figure out which traits all mammals share vs. which traits only some mammals share. Circle the traits all mammals share.
2. Unscramble the letters attached to the correct traits to discover the name of New York State's official mammal.

#### Get Outside!

There are lots of mammals that you can still see around in the wintertime, such as squirrels, chipmunks, bunnies, and foxes. On a sunny warm winter day they come out looking for food. Head outside for a nature walk and see how many mammals you can spot. Pay close attention to their fur, which will be fluffier and thicker than it is in the summer. That's called their winter coat, and just like your winter coat, it helps them to stay warm during the coldest months!