

Observing Autumn Animal Activity

In the autumn, animals are very busy getting ready for the winter.
Have you noticed any of these animal behaviors?

MIGRATE

Many animals are moving from their summer homes toward their winter homes during the autumn. Watch for sandhill cranes, ducks, and other birds moving in groups.

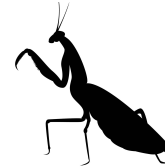


FATTEN UP

Beavers are eating extra food and storing away some extra in their lodges.

LIFE CYCLE

Many insects are busy laying their eggs in places where their young will find food when they hatch in the spring.



HIBERNATE

Other animals like marmots and pocket mice prepare to sleep for all or part of the coldest months by eating lots of food.

Journaling activity: Choose a place to sit or walk for 20 minutes each week as the season changes. Record what animals you observe and what they're doing. Watch for them each time and note any changes. You can use the next page or make your own, and remember to add the date each time. Here's an example of what you can do with your observations.

Count butterflies, busy ant communities, or other insects you see.

Draw some or all of the kinds you see, and look them up to identify.

Make a graph showing how the number of insects changes over time.

Draw a map showing where you found the insects.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather

Temperature: ___ degrees cold cool warm hot

Sky: sunny partly cloudy cloudy

Precipitation: none rain snow

Wind: no wind light breeze windy

Animal or activity I am observing:

I observe:

I wonder:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather

Temperature: ___ degrees cold cool warm hot

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Animal or activity I am observing:

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