

# MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

December 2023 – Surviving Winter

## **Outdoor Activity:** Winter prep scavenger hunt

Food becomes scarce during the colder months of the year. Rodents like mice, beavers and squirrels often collect various food sources in the fall. Other animals like deer and rabbits change their diet plan during this time of year to more available sources of food. Let's take a walk outside and gather various nuts, moss, twigs and leaves to experience preparing for winter like our furry friends.

### **Materials:**

- Basket, Box or Bucket
- List of commonly collected food stuffs
- Warm clothing
- Paper
- Pen or Pencil



### **Procedure:**

1. Write up a list of sought-after food and nesting materials: (nuts, seeds, leaves, moss, wood shavings, bark)
2. Prepare yourself to walk around in cold weather by dressing in warm clothing
3. Go out for a walk in the park, your backyard, or whatever forest area is around you. (respect laws, signs, and be aware of your surroundings at all times)
4. While gathering the things you see, keep in mind that these resources are scarce so only gather a handful of each item.
5. Keep a log of things easier or harder to find and gather.
6. When you've collected everything on your list you can set them down by trees, shrubs, bushes or dens for animals to gather and use this winter.



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## Indoor Activity: Blubber Glove

Animals survive harsh winter weather in various ways. They may migrate to warmer weather or double down on their adaptations like building up fur to tough it out in the cold, others collect and store heat insulators and use less energy when the cold weather comes around. In this demonstrative activity we explore cool ways animals retain heat in colder environments.

### Materials:

- 3-gallon Ziploc bags
- Crisco or Shortening (solid kind)
- Duct tape
- Nitrile gloves
- Bucket
- Ice
- Water
- Spoon
- Feathers, cotton balls, any other types of insulators (**optional**)

### Procedure:

1. Fill you bucket or bowl with cold water, add as much ice as you can fit into it.
2. Fill 2/3 of a Ziploc bag with whatever fat insulator you have.
3. Put your hand in another Ziploc bag.
4. Slowly put the Ziploc bag with your hand in it into the bag with the fat insulator in it.
5. Fold the opening of the two bags over each other and duct tape them together to prevent spilling.
6. Put your uncovered hand into the ice water, then put your blubber glove hand into the ice water.
7. Record the differences.
8. Try it with the other insulators you've gathered. (feathers, cotton balls, etc...)

