

# First Day of Winter

**Actual Holiday:** December 21 or 22

**First Celebrated:** Unknown



## Introduction

Brrr! If it's cold outside and between December and March, it's wintertime! Although it may seem like winter starts earlier, the first day of it is usually right before Christmas. What can people expect during this time? Rain, wind, cloudy skies, and depending on where you live, sometimes even snow! For these reasons, people prefer to stay indoors. Like people, some animals also want protection from the elements. Some even hibernate during the winter. Celebrate this holiday in your classroom by having students imagine what it would be like if they were animals getting ready for hibernation.

## Materials

- *Hibernation Comic Strip* activity sheet (page 79)
- art supplies

## The Activity

- Ask students what their favorite season is. Have those who choose winter share reasons why.
- Tell students that today they will be celebrating the first day of winter. Begin a discussion on what the weather is like during the winter. Talk about what kinds of activities students do when it's cold out. Do they go outside and play or stay indoors?
- Explain that there are some animals that do not want to be outdoors in the winter. Instead they find a safe spot to rest until the weather improves. This is called *hibernation*. It is a time of inactivity and rest. Animals eat or store a lot of food to prepare for hibernation. They find a safe place where they can rest, such as a tree cavity or a cave.
- Name some animals that hibernate, including bears, bats, skunks, bees, snakes, groundhogs, turtles, and ladybugs. Write the names of these animals on the board.
- Distribute the *Hibernation Comic Strip* activity sheet to students. Have them choose one of the animals listed to write about in a comic strip story. They will tell a story about an animal getting ready to hibernate. It can be realistic, such as a bear eating a lot of food, or silly, such as a bee taking a bubble bath. (After all, what animal wouldn't want to be clean before taking a long nap?)
- Have students draw three scenes for their comic strips. They can draw what would happen in the scenes in the boxes and then write about their drawings on the lines below.
- Once students have finished drawing and describing, have them get into small groups to share their creations. Then let students choose a favorite comic strip from the group to share with the class.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Hibernation Comic Strip



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