

# Hibernation Scavenger Hunt

## Bumble Bee



There are over 200 native bee species in Alberta. Of those, there are 20-30 species of Bumble Bees.

Only the fertile female Queen bee hibernates under ground during winter. The rest of the colony dies at the end of summer.

## Ground Squirrel



Often described as a gopher, Ground Squirrels are not a gopher but rather a unique species of burrowing squirrel.

Tree and flying squirrels do not hibernate, but ground squirrels do! Retreating to their burrows they can spend 4-7 months in a state of torpor.

## Amphibian



There are 10 species of amphibians in Alberta including 5 frogs, 3 toads and 2 salamanders.

Freeze-tolerant amphibians hibernate near the ground surface. Freeze-intolerant go to the bottom of ponds or under ground below frost line.

## Lady Bug



There are 75 or more species of Lady Bugs in Alberta! Part of the beetle family, they are also known as Lady Bird Beetles.

Adult Lady Bugs will seek out small nooks such as under bark, rocks or rotten logs to hibernate during winter.

## Bear



Alberta is home to two bear species; Brown Bears (also known as Grizzly Bears) and Black Bears.

Brown Bears typically hibernate at tree line on north facing mountain slopes while Black Bears often use standing tree hollows within forests.

## Morning Cloak Butterfly



Found throughout Alberta, newly emerged adults have a yellow wing border that fades to white in the spring.

Not all butterflies hibernate. Morning Cloaks are one species that does. Adults typically hibernate in October under the bark of a tree.

## Snake



Alberta has six resident snake species.

Snakes collectively hibernate in a traditional winter den called a hibernaculum. These underground chambers are below the frost line.

## Bat



Nine species of bats live in Alberta. Six species hibernate while 3 species migrate to adapt to the winter months.

A common place for bats to hibernate is in caves. Some like the Small Brown Bat hibernate in large numbers. Others are more solitary.

## Ants



Alberta is home to 94 or more species of ants!

As temperatures get colder ants seek out warmer places under ground. Body temperatures drop and movements become sluggish until spring.