



Under the Snow

by Melissa Stewart

About the Book

When snow falls, we go sledding and skating and have snowball fights. But under the snow is a hidden world. Some animals rest all winter long, but others stay active. This book offers a lyrical tour of fields, forests, ponds and wetlands, providing young readers with vivid glimpses of how animals live out the winter below snow and ice.

Before You Read

- Ask children why snow is important, even for people and other creatures that live in areas where it rarely snows.
- Ask children what they think wild animals do during the chilly days of winter. Have them consider a chipmunk, a fish, and a water strider.

As You Read

- Ask children to think about how an animal's body features affect how it survives during the winter.

After You Read

- Review the different ways animals react to cold winter weather. How many find shelter? How many stop being active? How many do not change their behavior?
- Ask children to list the four habitats mentioned in the book. Do they see any connection between an animal's habitat and how it behaves during the winter?

Follow-up Activities

If time permits, students may want to do some of the *Under the Snow* Activity Pages available on the author's website: www.melissa-stewart.com.