Wintertime

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Brrrr. Winter is cold in some places. Many plants do not grow during winter. Some plants die. Snow and ice may cover the ground. It can be hard for animals to find food during winter. Animals get through this time in many ways.

Birds and butterflies can fly. Many of them do not stick around for the winter. They leave. They go to a place with nice weather. Then they come home in the spring. We call this migration. Migrating is a good way to avoid the cold.

Another good way to avoid the cold is to sleep through it. Many animals hide during the winter. Their bodies slow down. They save their energy. They do not eat. They live off of their fat. They do this until food returns. We call this hibernation. Snakes, frogs, and bears hibernate.

Some animals store food in their homes. They do not sleep all winter, but they do much less. They live on what they saved in the summer and fall. This is what squirrels, beavers, and raccoons do. Skunks do this too.



Other animals tough it out. They do not leave. They do not hide. They must survive. Sometimes nature helps them out. Some animals grow thicker coats in the winter. Other animals change color. The arctic fox is brown in the summer. His coat turns white in the winter.

Winter may be pretty. It is nice to see snow on the trees. But it is dangerous too. People are also at risk. You can get frost bitten or worse. How do you beat the winter? Do you wear a thick coat? Do you stay inside? Or do you live somewhere warm?

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1. Which of these animals migrates during the winter?
a. foxes
b. snakes
c. bears
d. butterflies

2. Which of these animals survives winter by eating stored food?
a. bears
b. raccoons
c. frogs
d. birds

3. Why does the arctic fox's coat change white during winter?
a. The white coat is prettier and attracts mates.
b. White absorbs the sun and is warmer.
c. The white coat helps him blend with the snow.
d. His body saves energy by reducing hair color.

4. Which does not hibernate?
a. skunks
b. frogs
c. snakes
d. bears

5. Why is winter a difficult season in some places?
a. There is less food.
b. It is colder.
c. Snow and ice cover the ground.
d. All of these

6. What does it mean to migrate?
a. To grow a thicker coat
b. To move somewhere warmer for a season
c. To enter a long sleep and survive off of body fat
d. To change colors

7. What is the main idea of this text?
a. Animals do funny and interesting things.
b. Most flowers do not grow during the wintertime.
c. Animals survive the winter in many ways.
d. We must prepare for the dangers of winter.

8. How does a hibernating animal survive?
a. A hibernating animal lives off of stored food.
b. A hibernating animal lives off of body fat.
c. A hibernating animal lives somewhere warm.
d. A hibernating animal lives off of the land.

9. How would a thicker coat help an animal survive winter?
a. A thicker coat would help an animal hide better.
b. A thicker coat would protect an animal against attacks.
c. A thicker coat would help an animal stay warm.
d. A thicker coat would help an animal migrate.

10. Which title would best describe this text?

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a. *Winter: A Time to Migrate*
b. *Hibernation: Sleeping it off*
c. *Survive: How Animals Beat the Winter*
d. *Birds and Butterflies: Nature's Movers and Shakers*

Describe how a skunk survives the winter. List the steps that the skunk must take to survive in chronological order.

Why is migrating a good way to get through the winter? Refer to the text in your answer.

How is the way that frogs and snakes get through the winter different from how squirrels and beavers survive?

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