

# Adaptations to Life in the Boreal Forest

The Boreal Forest has winters that are very long and very cold, sometimes as cold as -60 degrees Fahrenheit (-51 degrees Celsius). To help them live through such tough conditions, the plants and animals of the Boreal have special qualities that help them adapt to their environment. These special adaptations allow them to survive in some of the harshest weather on the planet!!

## Part One: Match the adaptation to its correct description on the right.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| _____ migration                | a. moving underground for shelter from the cold                                    |
| _____ insulation               | b. having special body features which help animals deal with snow and extreme cold |
| _____ burrowing                | c. making an annual journey to and from a warmer climate                           |
| _____ camouflage               | d. spending time in an inactive (resting) state                                    |
| _____ physical characteristics | e. having layers of fur or feathers to keep the body warm                          |
| _____ hibernation              | f. changing colors to blend in better with the environment                         |

## Part Two: Fill in the blank with the name of the correct plant or animal that shows each form of adaptation. For an extra challenge, try to identify which of the terms from Part One is being described in each example.

Wood frog  
Wolf  
Vole

Snowshoe Hare  
Spruce Tree  
Black Bear

Caribou  
Moss and Lichen  
Beaver

Stays safe and warm inside a lodge built of sticks and mud \_\_\_\_\_

Lives underground in tunnels dug deep in the snow or soil \_\_\_\_\_

Hibernate so deeply that their bodies freeze in winter \_\_\_\_\_

Can grow in soil very thin layer of soil - even only 20 inches deep \_\_\_\_\_

Have special hooves that separate to help give traction in snow \_\_\_\_\_

Changes fur color to help blend into foliage of the season \_\_\_\_\_

Spend the winter in dormant state to avoid cold \_\_\_\_\_

Has thick coat of fur which lets them hunt on very cold days \_\_\_\_\_

Grow in dim light and on tree branches and trunks \_\_\_\_\_