

# Animal Adaptations

Animals have many different adaptations that help them survive. Some features of their bodies help them in the summer and some help them survive the cold winter. What body covering keeps an animal warm the longest? This experiment will demonstrate whether fur, feathers, scales or an extra layer of fat work best for keeping an animal warm.

## What you need:

- Four sandwich-sized plastic bags
- One bowl of icy water
- One stopwatch or something that can count seconds
- Bits of scrap paper\*
- One thick sock (wool works best)\*
- Craft feathers or a mitten with down feathers\*
- One cup of butter or shortening\*



## How to:

1. Prepare a container of icy, cold water and dip your bare hand into the water.
2. Leave your hand in the water until it gets uncomfortably cold. How many seconds can you leave it in the water before it gets too cold? Record your observations on the data table.
3. Put scraps of paper in a plastic bag to imitate scales. Put your hand in the bag. Repeat step two.
4. Put your hand in the sock and cover it with the plastic bag to imitate fur. Repeat step two.
5. Put your hand into the bag with the feathers. Repeat step two.
6. Measure a cup of butter and put it into the plastic bag. Put your hand into the bag. Repeat step 2.

**\*Don't let water get in the bag!**



