Reading Club *Fun!*

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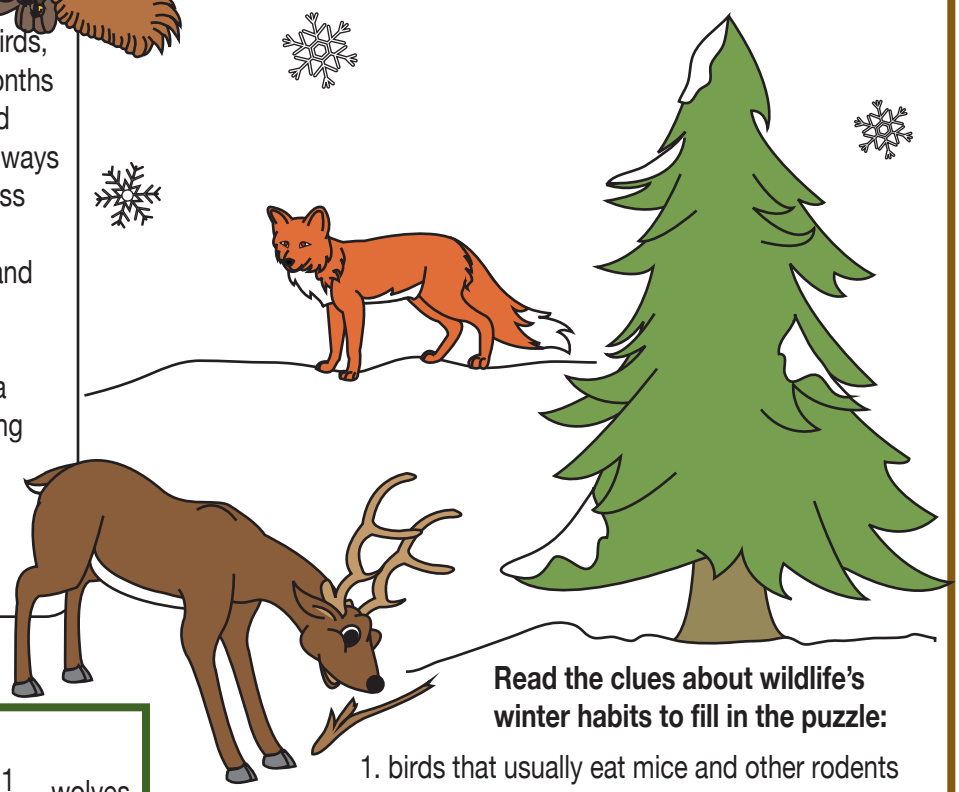
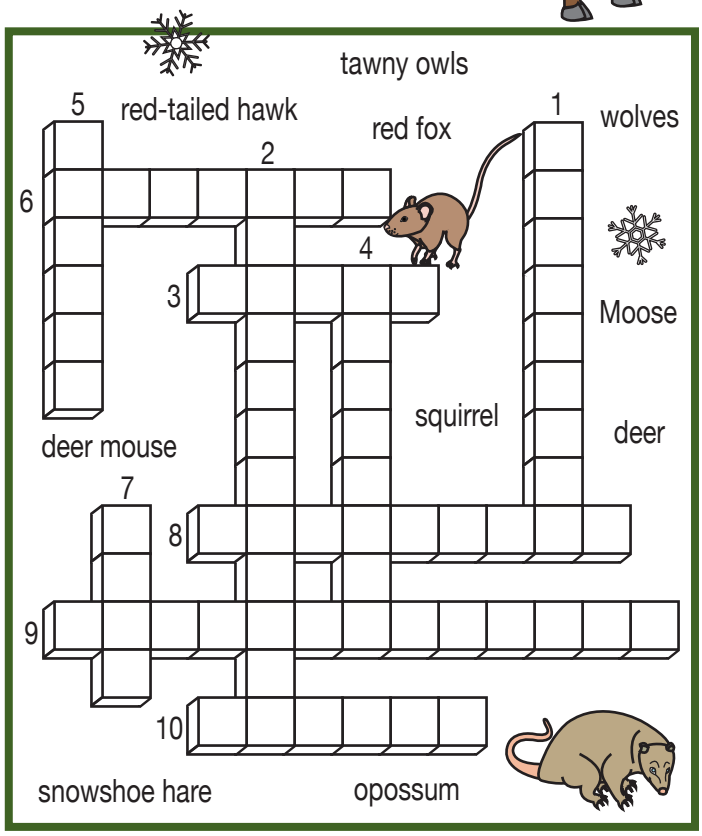
Wildlife in Winter

We like watching animals all year round to see what they do in each season. Some birds, butterflies and deer migrate in the coldest months to places where it is warmer and easier to find food. On the other hand, most animals have ways to adapt to colder temperatures, snow and less food. Some people feed wildlife during the winter months. They like to watch the birds and animals and feel that they are helping wildlife survive. When we did research on wildlife in winter for our school report, we learned that a few wildlife or bird experts thought that feeding birds was probably okay, but that most animals can survive on their own and that people should not tempt them to live or eat where they normally would not.





Read the clues about wildlife's winter habits to fill in the puzzle:

1. birds that usually eat mice and other rodents at night, but in winter may hunt during the day too
2. its white fur coat keeps it warm and its large back feet help it get around in the snow; scientists think it chooses parts of a plant that have the most nutrition, such as winter buds
3. huge mammals, only eat plants, eat up to 50 – 60 pounds of food a day to pack on weight for the winter months; their stomachs can hold up to about 110 pounds of food at one time
4. stores food (nuts, seeds, roots, leaves in the fall), may not leave its nest for days during periods of extreme cold
5. these ferocious animals change very little about their diet – they hunt elk and deer since smaller prey is harder to find
6. grows a layer of fat to keep warm, can eat almost anything, may switch to looking for food during the daylight hours
7. change their diets from grass and leaves to twigs and bark since it's hard to find green plants
8. gains weight to keep warm, eats seeds, beetles and caterpillars
9. birds of prey, change diet little, swoop down to eat chipmunks, squirrels and mice who stray too far from their nests
10. these hunters eat mice, fruit, plants, grow a thick fur coat

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