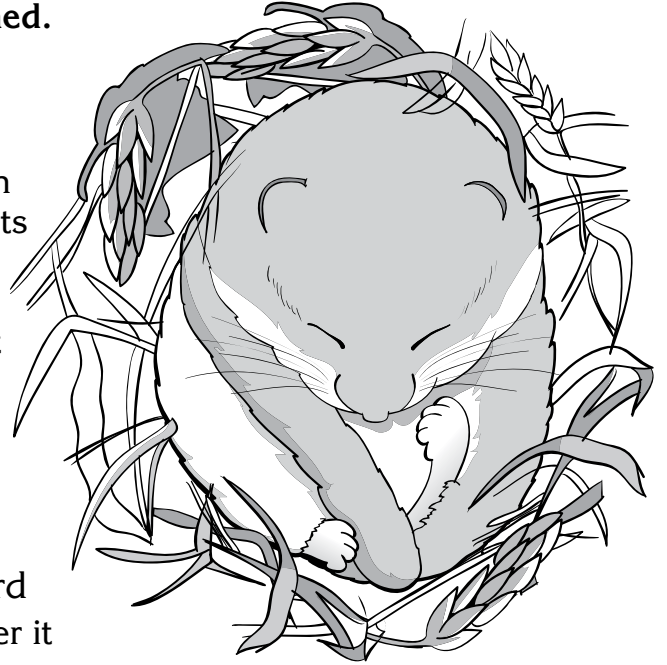


# A True Sleepyhead

A hibernating dormouse is such a sound sleeper that it can be handled without being awakened.

The dormouse is serious about hibernation and plans it carefully! First, this nocturnal mouse makes a cozy nest. Its winter nest is on the ground or underground. The dormouse eats so many berries, tree flowers, and nuts that it becomes plump. It may even weigh twice as much as normal. As winter arrives, the rodent curls into a ball. Its breathing slows down. Its heart beats more slowly. Its body temperature drops. As the animal sleeps, it survives on the body fat that it saved during the fall. If the dormouse wakes too soon, it can use up the stored fat too quickly and starve. But it is hard to wake a hibernating dormouse. No wonder it is sometimes called the dozing mouse!



**Cross out the word that makes each sentence false. Choose a word from the word bank to make the sentence true. Write the new word on the line.**

## Word Bank

soon  
slower  
drops  
night  
fat  
more

1. The nocturnal dormouse searches for food during the day.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The dormouse eats less food before hibernating.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. During hibernation, the dormouse's breathing gets faster.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The dormouse's body temperature rises during hibernation.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The hibernating dormouse survives on stored water.

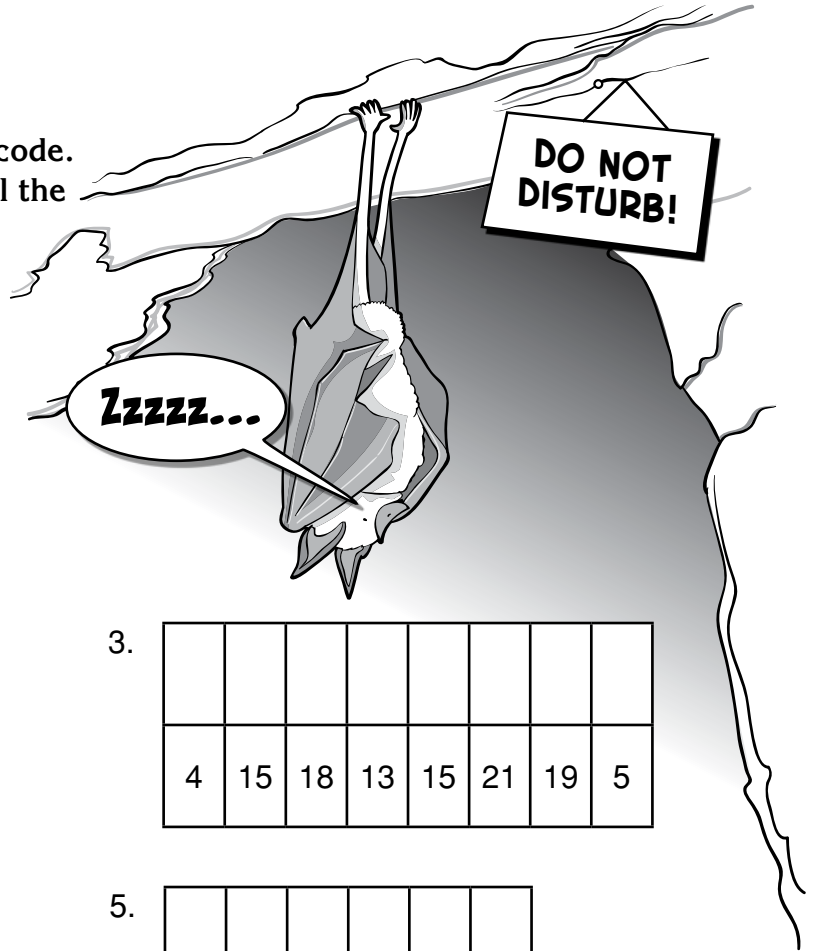
\_\_\_\_\_

6. The dormouse could starve if it wakes too late.

\_\_\_\_\_

# A True Sleepyhead

Match the numbers to the letters in the code.  
If your answers are correct, you will spell the names of six animals that hibernate.



1.

23	15	15	4	3	8	21	3	11

2.

20	15	1	4

3.

4	15	18	13	15	21	19	5

4.

14	9	7	8	20	8	1	23	11

5.

12	9	26	1	18	4

6.

7	18	5	1	20	5	18		8	15	18	19	5	19	8	15	5		2	1	20

**CODE**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

**Bonus**

What do you think would happen if winters became warmer where hibernating animals live? What do you think would happen if summers became cooler where hibernating animals live? Explain.