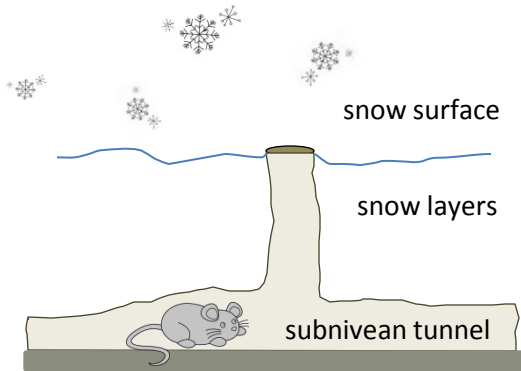


Snow Survival

Did you know some animals live **under** the snow to stay warm? Mice and voles create tunnels deep under the snow, in the area called the **subnivean layer**. The snow layers act like a thick blanket, keeping warmth in, and cold air out. The snow helps to **camouflage** them from **predators** (larger animals who hunt them, like weasels and owls). The next time you go out for a nature walk, see if you can find small, mouse-sized holes in the surface of the snow. These are signs that a mouse or vole lives nearby.



Animal Camouflage

How many of these animals camouflage themselves by blending in with the snow? (Answers at bottom)

☐ Coyote



☐ Ptarmigan



☐ Snowy Owl



☐ Wood Frog



☐ White-Tailed Jackrabbit



☐ White-Tailed Deer



☐ Short-Tailed Weasel



☐ Ground Squirrel



Staying Warm in Winter

How many of the following things have you done to stay warm while being outside in the winter?

- ☐ Being fully dressed for winter (hat, scarf, mitts, coat, snow pants, and boots)
- ☐ Sitting by a campfire
- ☐ Playing in the snow (like making a snowman)
- ☐ Drinking hot chocolate or eating warm soup
- ☐ Building an igloo or quinzee for shelter from the cold and wind
- ☐ Running on the spot or doing jumping jacks
- ☐ Playing a winter game or sport

WINTERSCAPING IDEA: Create a Wildlife-Friendly Yard

Animals need food and shelter all year. Here are some ways to create a warm and welcoming front yard for birds, rabbits and squirrels:

- Fill a bird feeder with wild birdseed and hang in a tree (away from any windows). You can also make your own seed or suet feeders!
- Make a squirrel feeder for your yard
- Are the small piles of snow on low-growing plants or bushes? Leaving some natural snow and branch piles creates wind shelters for small animals.

For more fun winter printables, visit www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes

Answers: Animals that are white in winter include snowy owls, white-tailed jackrabbits, short-tailed weasels, and ptarmigans. Snowy owls also have white feathers in summer.

Winterscaping is a great way for kids and adults to have fun outside creating a beautiful winter front yard at home, school, work, or your group location



Why not have a
winterscape-
making party with
friends?



Some Winterscaping Ideas

- *Use snow, ice, stones, and plant materials to create snow creatures, fun winter scenes, and more*
- *Make a bird feeder or ice ornaments to hang from trees*
- *Use snow as a blank canvas for snow painting with food colouring and water*
- *Add a few garden lights or keep your winter lights up all season*

Your imagination is the limit!

Nominate Your or a Neighbour's Winterscape for An Award

- Visit edmonton.ca/winterscapes for more info and winterscaping ideas
- Nomination categories include Winter Yard, Winter Art, and Winter Play
- Submit a photo online **Jan 12 – Feb 22, 2015** through our webpage
- Weekly prize draws for submitted nominations

Questions? front.yards@edmonton.ca

