

# WINTER ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

A **GETWISE**  STEAM Activity Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OBJECTIVE:** Investigate how blubber helps animals stay warm in cold water.

**MATERIALS:**

- 2 large zipper bags\*
- Vegetable shortening (Crisco®)
- Large bowl of ice water
- Timer
- Paper towels

*\*If you are doing this with a whole classroom, make a set of the "blubber gloves" and reuse them. Each student can have a zipper bag, or those can be reused too.*

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Fill one bag with shortening, then put your hand inside the second bag.
2. Place the bagged hand inside the shortening bag, creating a "blubber glove."
3. Place one hand (with blubber glove) in ice water and the other bare hand in the water.
4. Keep both hands in the water for 30 seconds (or shorter if it is uncomfortable).
5. Record how each hand feels.

**DATA/QUESTIONS:**

Record how your hand felt and looked. Add any other observations that you would like.

| Time       | Blubber Glove Hand | Bare Hand |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 10 seconds |                    |           |
| 20 seconds |                    |           |
| 30 seconds |                    |           |

Which hand stayed warmer? \_\_\_\_\_

Look at this picture of the seal and explain why you think the seal has blubber just beneath its skin covering most of its body.

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