

# What is Winter?

Winter is one of the four seasons.

In the United Kingdom, winter takes place in the months of December, January and February.

## Did You Know...?

Scientists say that winter begins around the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> December and lasts until the beginning of March, when it becomes the spring season.

## Fun Fact!

During the winter months, there are less hours of daylight and the nights last longer.



# Weather in Winter

The weather changes all the time in winter. It is typically the coldest season.

What clothing should we wear in winter? Why?



snowy



frosty



rainy



foggy



windy



# Trees in Winter

Many trees are bare during winter. This is because they begin to lose their leaves during autumn and continue losing them in winter until there are none left!



Other trees do not lose their leaves in winter. Their leaves are often called 'needles' and they stay on the tree all year round.

## Did You Know...?

Trees that don't lose their leaves are often called '**evergreens**'. This is because they are green all year round.



# Winter Berries and Fruits

During winter, you will find red berries on holly and rowan trees.



Red berries on a rowan tree



A holly tree in winter

A crab apple is a small, sour apple. They usually appear in summer, but the best time to pick them is during winter.



# Winter Flowers

Primroses and snowdrops are two types of flower that you will see in hedgerows and woodlands during the winter months.



primrose



snowdrop

# Animals in Winter

Some animals, such as hedgehogs and bats sleep through the entire winter months and wake up once it's warm again. This is called **hibernation**.

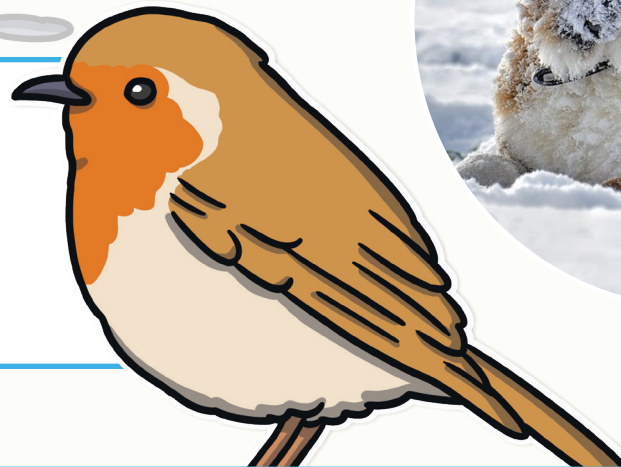


It is too cold in the UK for many birds in winter, so they **migrate** to warmer countries during the autumn and come back in spring.



Cats and dogs grow extra fur so they can stay warm in the winter months.

You might see lots of robins during winter. They are easy to spot because of their red breast.



# Celebrations in Winter

There are lots of different celebrations during the winter season.



For a long time people have celebrated the **winter solstice**, which celebrates the return of the sun.



**Hanukkah** is a Jewish festival that usually happens in December.



**Kwanzaa** is celebrated from December 26<sup>th</sup> through to January 1<sup>st</sup> by many African Americans.



**New Year's Eve** is celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. People watch fireworks and set New Year resolutions.



**Christmas** is a festival that is celebrated by many people around the world in December.



**Chinese New Year** and **Lunar New Year** mark the start of the lunar calendar. They are celebrated in January or February.