

Hibernating Tortoise

Science Experiment



Method

1. Begin by talking about hibernation. Explain to the children that some animals have a long, deep sleep during the winter months - this is called hibernation. Wild tortoises dig burrows, where they can be protected from the cold weather. We can recreate the same conditions for pet tortoises and help them to hibernate.
2. Ask the children to cover the base of 1 box with some soil. This box will be a burrow. The other box will represent a tortoise above ground.
3. An adult should fill the hot water bottles with hot water. Stick to each bottle one Hibernating Tortoise Cut-Out.
4. Ask the children to feel each of the hot water bottles to feel how warm they are.
5. Place one hot water bottle in the empty box. Place the other hot water bottle in the box with the soil in. Ask the children to cover the hot water bottle with the rest of the soil.
6. Over the next few hours, the hot water bottles can be felt to see which one cools quickest. Encourage the children to talk about why the soil-covered one stays warmer for a longer length of time.

You will need:

2 hot water bottles

Hot water

2 cardboard boxes (e.g. shoeboxes)

Dry soil

Hibernating Tortoise Cut-Outs

Sticky tape

