



DECEMBER ACTIVITY SHEET

Use this activity sheet to explore the museum in a whole new way!

ACTIVITY #1

Head to *Butterflies!* today to warm up in the tropical heat. While you're there, ask one of our staff or volunteers why the high temperature is important for the butterflies.

ACTIVITY #2

As you explore the dioramas in North American Hall today, be on the lookout for the animal pictured below. What other animals live in the same habitat?

ACTIVITY #3

You can meet an Academy entomologist on December 21 at Scientist Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Entomology is the study of bugs. How many types of bugs can you find in *Outside In* today?

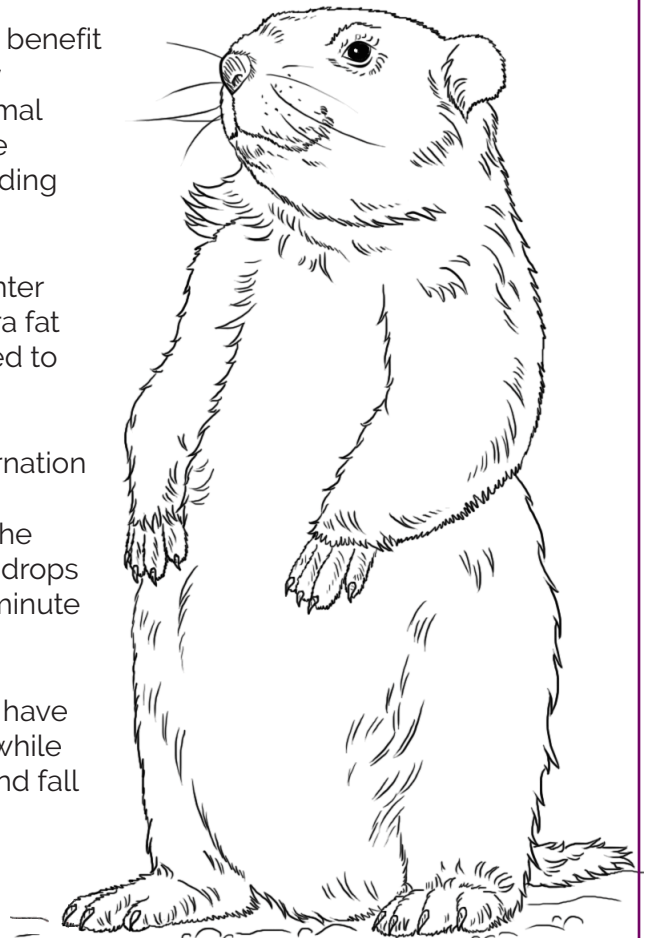
TIME TO HIBERNATE

In the winter, the days are short and cold. Some animals benefit from hibernating during this time because the food they normally eat is not available. Hibernation is when an animal becomes inactive or sleeps throughout the winter. There are many different types of animals that hibernate, including groundhogs, bears, squirrels, bats, snakes and lizards.

These animals and many others will prepare for their winter hibernation by eating more food to gain weight. The extra fat they store from eating in the summer and fall will be used to keep them healthy during their winter sleep.

Groundhogs build a special winter burrow to make hibernation possible. They will stay in the burrow throughout their hibernation, usually from late fall to early spring. When the groundhog begins to hibernate, their body temperature drops as low as 35 degrees. Their heart beats 4-10 times per minute and they only take one breath every six minutes.

When they come out of hibernation in the spring, they'll have just enough fat left on their body to keep them healthy while they search for food. They'll spend the whole summer and fall preparing their body to do it all over again next winter!





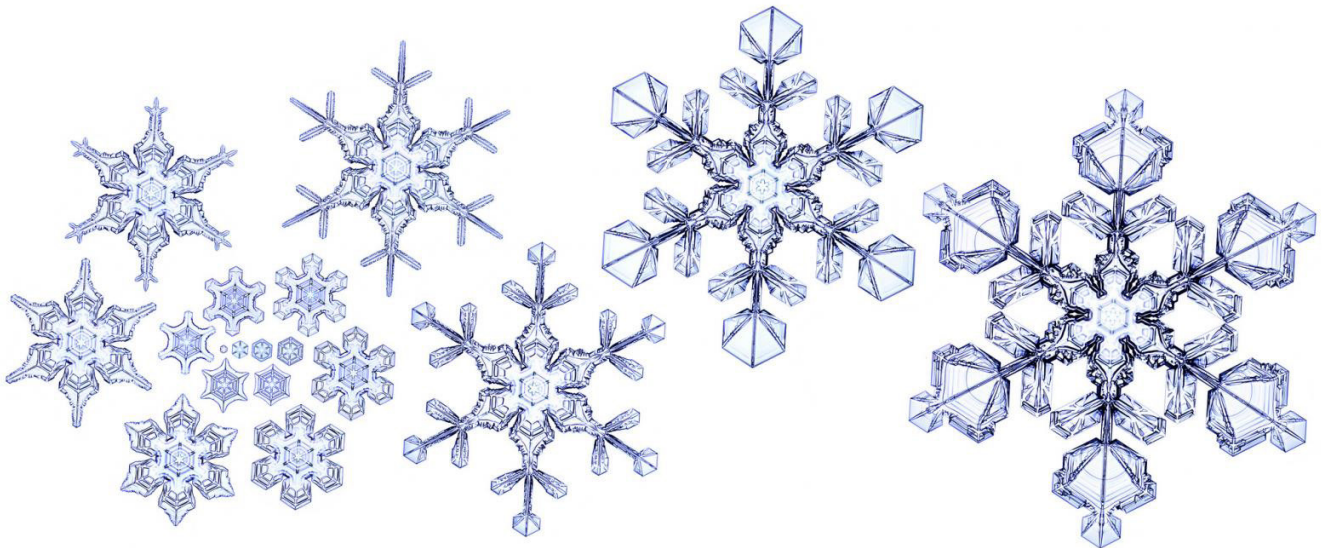
Don't forget your stamp.

Get your monthly stamp at the admissions desks. If you have eight stamps, it's time to collect your prize in the Academy Shop!

LET IT SNOW

Did you know, all snowflakes form with six sides? The molecules are able to form together most easily with a hexagonal structure. Each snowflake's six branches are repeated successively and it makes the snowflake symmetrical — that means each branch looks exactly the same.

When the snow starts to fall this winter, be prepared to observe the snowflakes. Have a black piece of construction paper and a magnifying glass on hand. On a snowy day, place the piece of paper in a covered spot outside to make it very cold. After 15 minutes, place the paper on a surface to collect snowflakes. As they collect, observe them with your magnifying glass. Sketch your results if you'd like.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Scientist Saturday

December 21
1–4 p.m.

Dinosaurs Around the World Closing Weekend

January 18–20, 2020

Dinos After Dark

January 24
4–8 p.m.



The Academy of
Natural Sciences
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Regular Hours:
Monday–Friday,
10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Weekends and Holidays,
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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