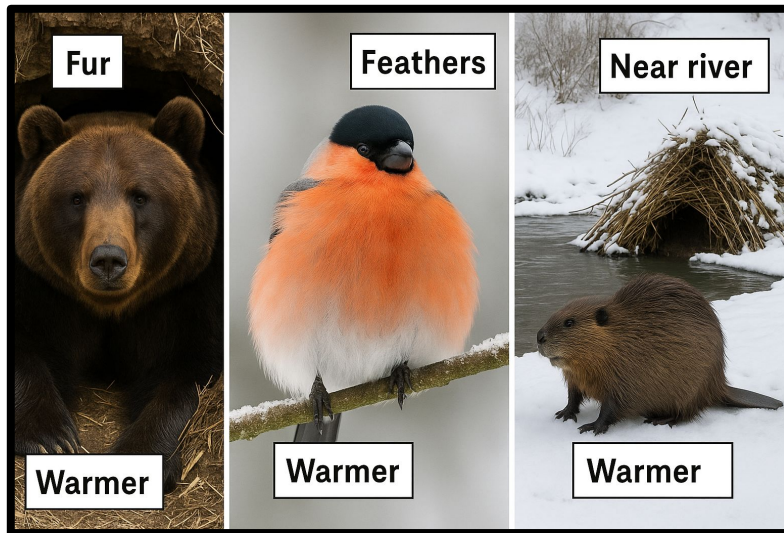


Decodable Texts: All R-Controlled

"This nonfiction story uses mixed R-controlled vowels like 'fur,' 'feathers,' 'deer,' and 'winter.'
Let's explore how animals stay warm in cold places!"



How Animals Stay Warm

In cold weather, animals use fur, feathers, or fat to stay warm.

A bear grows thick fur and curls up in a dark den.

A bird puffs its feathers to trap warm air near its body.

Beavers build strong lodges near rivers to block wind and snow.

Deer grow winter coats that are warmer than summer fur.

Each creature has a smart way to survive storms and low temperatures.

Nature has many helpers to keep animals safe!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

fur

feathers

winter

deer

warmer



Name: _____

How Animals Stay Warm

1. What helps birds stay warm?

- A. Spots
- B. Smooth skin
- C. Puffed feathers
- D. Cold water

2. Where do beavers build lodges?

- A. In the forest
- B. Under the sun
- C. Near rivers
- D. On cliffs

3. Fill in the blank:

Each creature has a smart way to survive storms and low _____.

4. What are three different ways animals stay warm in cold weather?

5. Why is it important for animals to adapt to winter?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Mixed R-Controlled Vowels (ar, er, ir, or, ur)

Genre: Nonfiction – Life Science / Animal Adaptations

High-Frequency Words: has, near, each, their, many

Before Reading

1. This story blends R-controlled vowel sounds in words like *fur*, *feathers*, *deer*, *warmer*, and *winter*.
 2. Have you ever watched how animals act during winter?
 3. What would you wear or use to stay warm outside?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Tap and blend R-controlled vowels in *fur*, *bear*, *deer*, *warmer*, and *feathers*.
 2. Watch for how each animal uses its body or home to stay safe
 3. How does each example help the animal survive?
 4. Read the last line as a celebration of nature's clever design
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After Reading

1. Retell what the bear, bird, and beaver each do to stay warm
 2. What do these examples show about survival in nature?
 3. If you were designing winter gear, what would you learn from animals?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight one word for each R-controlled pattern
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again with a steady, thoughtful voice—like a nature guide explaining animal behavior
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Activity Idea

Draw a bear, a bird, and a beaver showing their winter habits. Label parts using R-controlled words like *fur*, *feathers*, *winter*, *near*, *warmer*, or *creature*. Write one sentence about how animals beat the cold.

Coaching Tip

Animal adaptations naturally connect with R-controlled decoding—link phonics to survival stories for maximum learning!

