

Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ar)

"This nonfiction story explains why animals have fur. Look for 'ur' pattern words like 'fur,' 'dirt,' and 'curly' as you read about how fur helps them survive!"



What Is Fur For?

Fur helps many animals live in the wild.

It keeps their skin safe from cold, sun, and dirt.

Some animals have thick fur in winter and short fur in summer.

Fur can be soft, dark, bright, or curly.

It helps animals blend in or stand out.

Beavers use their fur to stay warm in the water.

Each type of fur has a special purpose in nature.

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

fur

surly

short

purpose

winter



Name: _____

What Is Fur For?

1. What does fur help protect animals from?

- A. Rain and books
- B. Sand and snow
- C. Cold, sun, and dirt
- D. Water and toys

2. What do some animals do in summer?

- A. Wear more fur
- B. Lose their fur
- C. Grow longer tails
- D. Hide under leaves

3. Fill in the blank:

Each type of fur has a special _____ in nature.

4. What are two ways fur helps animals live in their environment?

5. Why do you think some fur is soft while other fur is thick?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ur R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Nonfiction – Animal Science

High-Frequency Words: from, their, have, each, some

Before Reading

1. This story includes “ur” words like *fur*, *dirt*, *curly*, and *purpose*.
 2. What kinds of animals have fur?
 3. Why do you think fur changes with the season?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Stretch and tap “ur” sounds in *fur*, *curly*, *short*, and *purpose*.
 2. Watch for ur words that describe texture and protection
 3. How does fur help animals live in hot or cold places?
 4. Read the final line like you’re wrapping up a science fact
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After Reading

1. Retell the ways fur protects and helps animals survive
 2. What do you notice about animals that live in warm places versus cold ones?
 3. What animal’s fur would you want to touch or study and why?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ur” words in the passage
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again using a calm, science-teacher voice
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Activity Idea

Draw three animals with different types of fur. Label each with ur words like *fur*, *curly*, *short*, or *dirt*. Write one sentence about what makes their fur helpful.

Coaching Tip

Real-world examples make phonics stick—let kids read like scientists while building decoding confidence.

