Let’s Get Squirrelly
With Art & Writing!

Choose a prompt from the box on the right.
Write a rough draft. Edit. Write a final draft.
Follow directions below to create a handprint squirrel.
Add to your final draft.

Squirrel Writing Prompts:
- Write a story or poem from the point of view
  of a golden-mantled ground squirrel.
- Write a Haiku for golden-mantled’s
  habitat.
- Tell a story about an
  encounter between a
  grizzly bear and a
  golden-mantled
  ground squirrel.
- Write 10 facts about
  golden-mantled
  ground squirrels.

Make a Handprint Animal Art Squirrel

1. To form the head, paint a leaf shape on your
   palm with reddish-brown paint and print close
   to the top of your paper.
2. To print the squirrel’s body, paint your hand
   reddish-brown, leaving the thumb clean.
   Overlap the head a little.
3. Print a branch beneath the squirrel, using the
   length of your pointer finger painted brown.
4. Give the squirrel a nose and ear and print the
   base of an acorn using a dark brown fingertip
   print.
5. Fingerprint an eye and acorn top using light
   brown paint.
6. Print the squirrel’s foot reddish-brown using
   your pointer fingertip. To print an arm holding
   the acorn, use your whole pointer finger.
7. To form the tail, use reddish-brown paint on
   your pointer finger and print several times in a
   row. Repeat with a lighter color.
8. Outline when dry. Add the details to the tail,
   whiskers, claws and eyes.
Winter Survival

Subject: Science

Objective: Students will be able to give four examples of behaviors animals use for winter survival.

Materials:
- 12" X 18" construction paper
- markers or colored pencils

Procedure:
1. Discuss with students the behaviors they take on when winter arrives. How do they handle the cold weather? In what activities do they participate? Does their behavior change from summer to winter? Share the poem, “Coping with Cold,” (following page) with your students.
2. Discuss with the class the wildlife they see during the winter. Are there fewer animals to see? Does animal behavior change in any way? Why does the behavior change? How do winter animals make a living?
3. Introduce or review the different strategies animals use during the winter.
   A. Migrate: Animals travel to another area where weather is warmer and food is more accessible.
   B. Adapt: These animals make changes to behavior or to their bodies. For example, they may grow newer, thicker fur in the fall or change the coloring of their coats to blend in with their environment. Some animals gather food when it is available and store it for later. Other animals change their diet for the different seasons.
   C. Hibernate: True hibernators are animals that go into a special deep sleep. Their body temperature drops, heartbeat and breathing slow down. They eat extra food in the fall and store it as body fat.
   D. Dormancy: Cold-blooded animals like fish, frogs, snakes and turtles have no way to keep warm in the winter. This inactive period, or dormancy, is similar to hibernation.
4. Ask students to research more thoroughly winter survival techniques for different animals. Give each student a 12" X 18" piece of construction paper. Instruct them to fold the paper into fourths. They should then draw lines on the folds and label each box. Use the following labels: Migrate, Hibernate/Dormancy, Adapt and My Preference. For the Migrate, Hibernate/Dormancy, and Adapt boxes, students should give an explanation of the technique and give at least three examples of animals that use the particular technique. They should then illustrate one of the animals demonstrating that behavior.
5. For the fourth box, My Preference, students should tell which technique they would prefer if they were an animal surviving the winter.
but all that really matters is we survive until spring.
Some sleep, some snuggle, some fly south on their wings.

We all have a plan to survive cold winter days.
People and animals are alike in some ways.

We grow extra fur for a thick winter's coat.
The animals in the mountains look for shelter.

And when he gets hungry, he'll search for that place.
He'll take them and hide them in some secret space.

I see a squirrel in the tree top, some nuts in his cheeks.
A flock of geese flying south in the shape of a V.

I look to the sky, for what could it be?

Early in the fall as the days start getting short.

Let's take a quick look and see if they do.
If people can do it, can animals too?

Perhaps take a trip to the tropics to relax and rebalance.

Or stay snugged in bed during a harsh winter storm.
Can they put on a jacket to keep themselves warm.

What happens to the Animals this time of year?

When winter approaches and cold weather draws near

By Shelly Cooke, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Coging with Cold
Here are some rodents that live in Idaho. Find them in the puzzle.

BEAVER
BOG LEMMING
BUSHTAILED WOODRAT
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL
DEER MOUSE
FLYING SQUIRREL
GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL
HOARY MARMOT
IDAHO GROUND SQUIRREL
KANGAROO RAT
LEAST CHIPMUNK
MEADOW VOLE
MUSKRAT
POCKET GOPHER
POCKET MOUSE
PORCUPINE
RED SQUIRREL
ROCK SQUIRREL
SAGEBRUSH VOLE
YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT