

Winter



Winter comes after autumn and before spring. In the Northern **Hemisphere**, winter starts in December and ends in March. In the Southern Hemisphere, it **lasts** from June to August. The name 'winter' comes from an old **Germanic** word that means 'time of water', that is, the season when it rains and snows a lot.

During winter the days are short and the nights are long. Winter is the coldest season of the year. The weather is **harsh**, with snow, **blizzards** and ice. There are a few **outdoor** activities that people do **despite** the low temperatures. Children like to build a snowman, have **snowball** fights and ride on a **sledge**. Adults usually go skiing or snowboarding. However, in general, people spend a lot of time **indoors**.

Animals have different methods of surviving the winter. Birds **migrate** to warmer countries while bats and bears **hibernate**, that is, 'sleep' through the season. Some animals collect food in autumn to live on in winter, for example squirrels and **beavers**.

Glossary

beaver - bóbr

blizzard – śnieżycyca

despite - pomimo

Germanic – germański

harsh – trudny, nieprzyjazny

a hemisphere – półkula

to hibernate - hibernować

indoors – wewnątrz, pod dachem

to last – trwać

to migrate - migrować

outdoor – zewnętrzne, na powietrzu

sledge - sanki

snowball – śnieżka

Quiz

1. What was the lowest temperature ever recorded on Earth?
a) -89.2 °C b) - 59.2 °C
2. When did the first Winter Olympics take place?
a) In 1964 b) In 1924
3. How big was the largest snowflake ever recorded on Earth?
a) 18 centimetres wide b) 38 centimetres wide
4. What is the world record for the most snowfall in a 24-hour period?
a) 170 centimetres b) 70 centimetres

Answers: 1 a - It was recorded at the Russian Vostok Station in Antarctica in 1983, 2 b - In Chamonix, France, 3 b - It fell in Montana, USA in 1887, 4 a - 170 cm of snow fell in the town of Silver Lake, Colorado, on April 14th and 15th, 1921