

Probe



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WINTER



In Australia, our winter time is different to those in other countries. We do not get a lot of snow, because it never gets cold enough!

The places in Australia that do get snow are very high up in the mountains of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Have you ever been to the snow? Brrrr...it's very cold and you have to wear very warm clothes.

The plants, animals and birds that live in snow are special because they have to put up with the cold weather. This month, we are going to have a look at some of the things you may see if you go to a snowy place this winter.

THINGS TO DO!

- * Find all the places where it snows in Australia on a map.
- * What are some other countries that have snow in winter?
- * In what parts of the world is there snow all the time?



SNOW

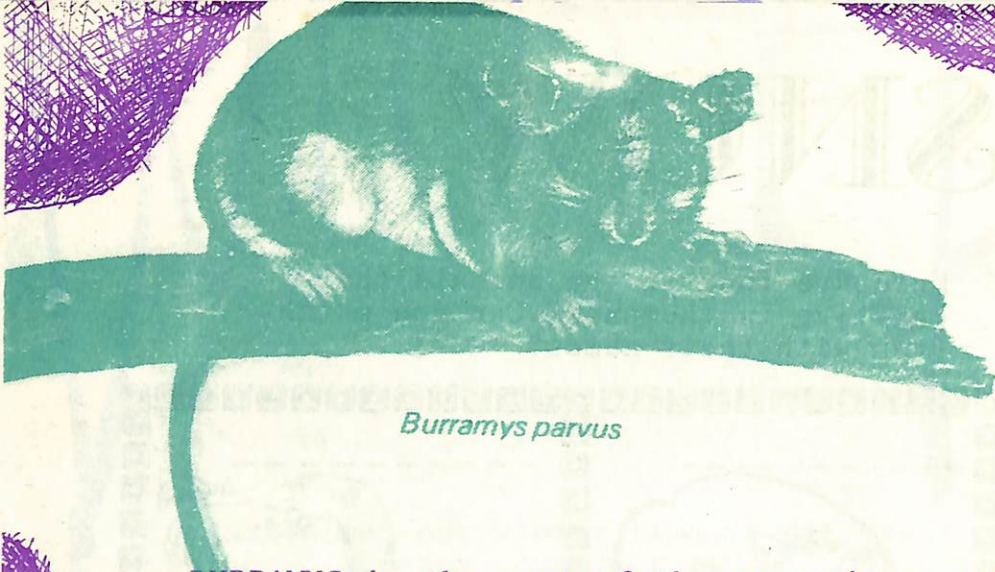
Here are four of the animals that can live in the snow. Can you match them with their names?



NAMES: • White Lipped Snake • Baw Baw Frog
• Broad Toothed Rat • Mountain Pygmy Possum

- *** Find out more about these animals.
- *** Color them in.
- *** What other animals live in the snow?

DWELLERS



Burramys parvus

BRRR.... IT'S A BURRAMYS !

BURRAMYS is the name of the mountain pygmy possum. These possums are very tiny, only about 16cm. long. They are special because they are Australia's only snow living mammal. Until 1966, these tiny possums were thought to be EXTINCT, but one was found at Mt. Hotham in Victoria, just to show everyone he was still alive and well! These possums have thick fur to keep out the cold, and live under the snow. They eat small insects and some types of plants. The mother Burramys has four babies at a time which are really tiny when they are born, and the mother keeps them safe in her pouch. The babies are only 3mm long when they are born! The Burramys never comes too far down the mountains, which is one of the reasons it is special. Other possums like the Ringtail possum (on our one cent piece) can live in the snow for a short time, but like the warmer weather better. The Burramys always stays up where the weather is coolest. The Burramys does not HIBERNATE or sleep during the cold winter, instead it looks for food around its snowy home.



brave

i r d s



These birds can live in our snowy areas during winter.

They live by eating gum nuts, or food from garbage bins or tips.

* What other types of food could they find in the snow?

*What do you know about these birds?

*Do you know of any other birds that can live in snowy places?

ARTIST: W. PROHASKY.

BY GUM !

If you have been to the snow, you may have seen that the trees are different to the ones further down the mountains.

Up really high, the trees are called "SNOW GUMS". These trees are very **HARDY**, because they have to fight off the strong winds and freezing cold of these snowy areas.

The Snow Gum has very smooth bark, which is made up of two colors, in patterns on the trunk.

The branches are often very twisted, and the trees lean over from where the wind has blown them for a long time.

The leaves on the Snow Gums are thicker and shorter than on normal gum trees. This helps the tree to live in the snow.

The trees are also shorter, so that the wind cannot blow them over as easily.

What else can YOU find out about these trees?

Find out the meaning of the words in capitals.

* what are some other plants that can live in the snow?

* what are the names of some plants from other lands that can live in the snow?



SNOW GUMS

snow business



Some of you may be lucky enough to go to the snow this winter. If you are, catch a few snowflakes on a

dark scarf or cloth and look at them through a magnifying glass. Not only will they look bigger but you will notice that they all have six sides or points. But the most fascinating thing is that no two snowflakes will have the same pattern.



- Even if you can't go to the snow you can find out
1. Where does snow come from ?
 2. Why does it snow not rain ?
 3. Where does the snow go when it melts ?
 4. What is the difference between snow and frost ?
 5. Where else but on the ground can you find frost ?

