

Summer Coat, Winter Coat by Zoe Clarke

What's the weather like outside?

If it's cold and windy you will need a coat. Some animals have coats too, but they are not like yours.

Some animals change their coats when the seasons change. Just like you, they wear a different coat when it's cold.



Mountain goats have a short, hairy coat in the summer, which keeps them cool.

In the winter, their hair grows long and thick to keep them warm. In the spring, their long coat falls off.

Some animals have coats that turn white in winter.

The Arctic fox and snowshoe hare both have brown summer coats.

Their white winter coats are thick and warm. This colour helps the fox and hare to stay safely hidden in the snow.



A ptarmigan's feathers change colour when the seasons change.

In winter, it grows a white feather coat on its body and feet. The thick feathers on its feet make a snow shoe. This helps the bird walk on snowy ground.

Name:

Date:

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Use the text and pictures to answer the questions.

1 “*when the seasons change*”

What is a season?

Tick **one**.

a nice place to visit

a time of year

something you do

something you see

2 When do animals wear a different coat?

3 Write **two** things about a mountain goat’s summer coat.

4 What colour is an Arctic fox’s coat *before* it turns white?

Name:

Date:

5 Why do some animals grow a different coat in winter?

Tick **one**.

They want to look good.

They need to keep warm.

So they know it is winter.

6 Draw a line from each animal to show how their coats change in winter.

mountain goat

fur goes white

Arctic fox

gets feathery feet

ptarmigan

hair gets long and thick