

When the temperature drops below 32°F (0°C), water freezes. Ice is lighter than water, which is why it doesn't sink to the bottom of a frozen lake. Even when ice on a lake is really thick, the water underneath stays liquid. That's good news for the fish, but stepping on the ice can be very dangerous for humans.

Lake ice might look strong, but it can be very fragile and break easily.

Winter can make it hard for animals to find food.

Winter is tough for many animals. Some species, like grizzly bears, cope by going to sleep until the spring—this is called hibernation. Others, like this wolf, grow a very thick coat of fur. We all have to keep warm in the winter!

Chipmunks sleep through most of the winter, too.