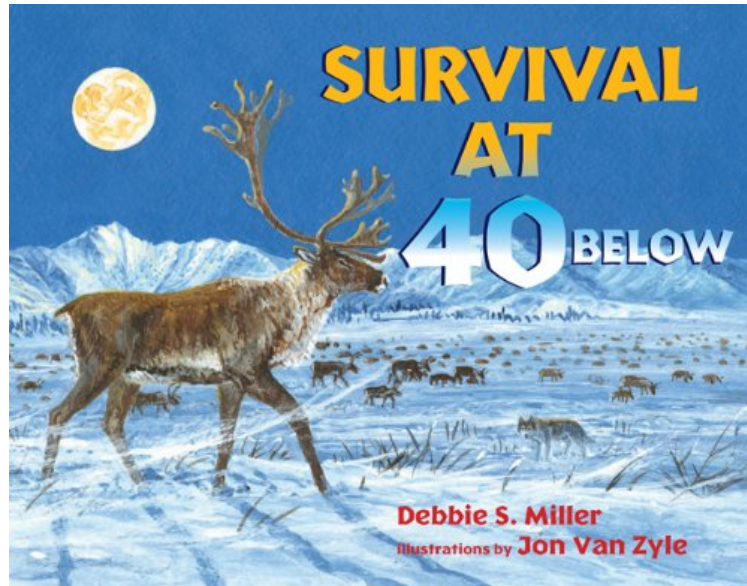


Survival at 40 Below

Debbie S. Miller

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Debbie S. Miller : Survival at 40 Below before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Survival at 40 Below:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review from [...].By www.firrkids.comThis is a very beautiful book about how a variety of animals manage to survive the long Arctic winter. This is the ninth collaboration to come from the amazing team of Debbie Miller and Jon Van Zyle. She manages the research in the field, literally hiking through the wilderness, while he renders the art in the studio.This story takes place in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, where the average temperature dips below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and can drop as low as 70 degrees below zero. Wow. What must the animals do to survive those types of conditions? Each species has its own set of survival techniques that they employ which allows them to function in such a frigid environment.As winter approaches, some animals grow thick coats of fur for protection while others scavenge and hoard as much food as possible. Then there are those who take more extreme measures. The wood frog actually freezes into the water - he stops breathing and his heart stops beating, but he is alive. Grizzly bears and squirrels will hibernate, snoring away while winter rages. Elk and arctic foxes are specially insulated by their own fur, while black-capped chickadees know how to fluff up their feathers for extra insulation.The harsh conditions have forced the animals who dwell here to learn the most amazing survival techniques, which makes this is a captivating book to read to children. The illustrations from Jon Van Zyle are equally commanding. Jon is a well-known Alaskan artist; he has been the official Iditarod Sled Race artist since 1979. He definitely knows Alaska, but more importantly, he knows how to present it to others in a beautiful way.This is a remarkable book that reminds us just how amazing nature can be. Reading Debbie's text set against Jon's illustrations, you really do feel as though you are walking through this frozen national park. The extreme conditions makes me grateful I do not have to live in such a challenging environment, but am fascinated by discovering how the locals manage.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This lyrical tale of winter life in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is a marvelous learning experience!By D. FowlerThe mountains along the Koyukuk River

have received their first dusting of snow for the season and the chill begins to settle in the valleys letting the wildlife know the change of seasons is once again upon us. The animal life in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in northern Alaska instinctively prepare for winter. The caribou "have gained a thick layer of fat" from their lazy summer grazing. Bird and small animal life begin to stash their food reserves in preparation for the brutal cold. As the chill begins to set in beavers begin to snuggle in their lodges while the Alaskan blackfish, a "bottom dweller [that] can survive the winter in shallow frozen ponds with little oxygen" moves slowly beneath the thin ice. Winter is signaling its arrival. The amazing wood frog, who will actually freeze, "burrows into the duff of the forest floor" in anticipation of its bodily changes. The arctic ground squirrel has gathered his food and will soon hibernate. The tundra is alive with animal activity, but it will soon slow as the temperature dips. The grizzly bear, an arctic fox, the ptarmigan, the chickadee, Dall sheep, musk oxen and others are preparing for the brutal weather. The snow cover deepens and by January, "the temperature plummets to 40 below zero." Which creatures will sleep away the winter only to come alive again when the ice begins to melt? This lyrical tale of winter life in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is a marvelous learning experience. The set up, which is quite similar in nature to a picture book format, is quite appealing and has a dearth of information in its pages. For example, I enjoyed learning about the unusual hibernation of the recurring awakening of the squirrel who "warms himself, sleeps, and supercools about a dozen times during the winter to conserve enough energy to survive." The art work relays the chill of the area and brings the barren landscape and its wildlife to life in these pages. In the back of the book is a glossary, an informative author's note, a temperature chart, and additional recommended book resources to explore. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. poetic text and lovely acrylic art By Kirsten G. Cutler This non-fiction picture book informs about how some arctic animals adapt to survive the harsh winter climate of Alaska above the Arctic Circle: poetic text and lovely acrylic art illustrations describe each animal in its winter habitat: "Leaves rustle softly as a wood frog burrows into the duff of the forest floor" and "As snowflakes swirl, the squirrel is ready to hibernate." Paintings highlight the realistic animals amidst some stunning scenery: the cold of winter is palpable. The final double spread shows a lush summer landscape dotted with many different animals. End materials include a glossary, suggestions for additional resources, a chart that shows the extraordinary range of high and low temperatures for every month of the year, and a thoughtful author's note.

The award-winning Alaskan picture book duo is back with a look at the long arctic winter. As temperatures drop and the snow deepens, the animals that make the tundra home must ready themselves for survival. Follow the arctic ground squirrel as it begins the cycle of sleeping, supercooling, and warming that will occur at least a dozen times before spring arrives. See how the wood frog partially freezes itself in hibernation beneath layers of snow, or how the woolly bear caterpillars makes it through the winter months with a special antifreeze substance that prevents ice from forming in their bodies. Then when the temperatures finally rise and the snow begins to melt, these creatures emerge and the pulse of life returns to the arctic. Debbie S. Miller's expert research and accessible writing will fascinate readers as Jon Van Zyle's signature style beautifully captures these animals and their habitat.

From School Library Journal Grade 35 Miller describes the terrain of Alaska's Gates of the Arctic National Park and explains how the seasonal changes affect a diverse array of animals birds, fish, insects, and mammals that live in the area year-round. Frozen frogs, hibernating ground squirrels, and even woolly bear caterpillars are among the smaller animals joining the larger musk oxen, polar bears, and caribou. Dall sheep, arctic foxes, and grizzly bear are shown as they adapt variously to the extreme climate. Van Zyle's acrylic paintings span the spreads, offering good impressionistic views of varied landscapes and fauna. In some scenes, the animals described in the accompanying narrative are hard to spot or not shown at all. The text moves smoothly and quickly, offering interesting glimpses of varied hibernation patterns and the physical characteristics enabling some animals to survive winter's deep chill aboveground. The closing author's note mentions the creeping changes with global warming. A chart of record high and low temperatures illustrates a really impressive range for each of the 12 months. The glossary includes "shivering" but nowhere is "tundra" defined, though it occurs several times in the text. Sketchy maps of Alaska and the park are set against a snowy mountain on the end pages. A good introduction to the diversity of the region's wildlife. Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Miller takes readers to Gates of the Arctic National Park in northern Alaska to observe animals collecting and storing food, preparing for eight months of snow. As temperatures fall, a frog burrows into fallen leaves and prepares its body for near-frozen hibernation; a chickadee fluffs his feathers and lowers his temperature and metabolism; and caribou sniff out and forage for lichen hidden beneath the snow. The book describes how many different species physical adaptations and behaviors keep them alive through the winter. From sweeping landscapes to close-ups, skillful acrylic paintings help readers visualize the setting and the animals that live there. An author's note, a glossary, and recommended books and Internet sites are appended. With more detailed information than one might expect from the picture-book format, this will be a good addition to classroom units on animals in winter. Grades 2-4. --Carolyn Phelan A 2011 Outstanding Science Trade Book From sweeping landscapes to close-ups, skillful acrylic

paintings help readers visualize the setting and the animals that live there... A good addition to classroom units on animals in winter. Booklist The text moves smoothly and quickly ... A good introduction to the diversity of the region's wildlife. School Library Journal A fascinating look at the great diversity of animal adaptations, as well as an introduction to some lesser-known species. Kirkus s Awards for Big Alaska NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 for 2007 2008 Kentucky Bluegrass Book Award Master List Awards for Arctic Lights, Arctic Nights John Burroughs Nature Books for Young Readers Award CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Selector's Choice Texas Bluebonnet Award Masterlist Awards for The Great Serum Race: CBC-NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People