

SHORT FILM WORKSHEET



Woollybear Adaptations

The woollybear caterpillar is the larval stage of a moth called the Isabella. You may never notice the adult moth form of this insect, but you will see the caterpillar making its way across roads, yards and gardens. See if you can answer the following questions about woollybears.

1. Why do you see the woollybear caterpillar more often than the adult moth?

2. How does the woollybear protect itself when bothered by potential predators?

3. Can you tell how cold a winter will be by how much orange a woollybear has?



Answers

1. You see the woollybear caterpillar more often than the adult moth because the moth is nocturnal and comes out when you are sleeping. The caterpillar has a bright orange middle and is more numerous than the moth (not all woollybears survive to hatch out as adults!).
2. The woollybear protects itself by rolling up in a ball and staying very still. It will drop off any plant it is on to the ground and will expose sharp guard hairs when it rolls up.
3. Probably not, but many still believe that old tale!

