

FALL

The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting cooler. But for the red fox, that is just fine. It likes to hunt before sunrise and after sunset. Its thick, soft **coat** will keep it plenty warm.





In fall, a red fox hangs out mostly by itself. Its babies have grown up and are on their own. Now is the time for it to focus on food. That's because, even for a master hunter such as a fox, winter can mean slim pickings. And winter is just around the corner.

A wintry wind stops this fox in its tracks. But a red fox won't take **shelter**—it stays out in all but the very worst weather. Thank goodness for fur coats!



WINTER

In cold places, red foxes grow even longer, thicker winter coats. Instead of hiding out in a den, a red fox will usually just curl up right out in the open. Wrapped in its big, bushy tail, the fox stays nice and warm—even when it's completely covered by snow.



Finding food, however, can often be a problem. Small animals such as mice, ground squirrels, birds, and lizards make up most of a red fox's diet. And in some places, many of those prey animals are hard to find during the winter. Fortunately, these foxes possess super-sharp hearing. They can hear a mouse squeaking from as far away as the length of a football field! When a **keen**-eared fox hears that squeak or a rustling in leaves or even tiny

footsteps under snow, it leaps into action! So while there may not be as much food around, a red fox will find whatever food there is.