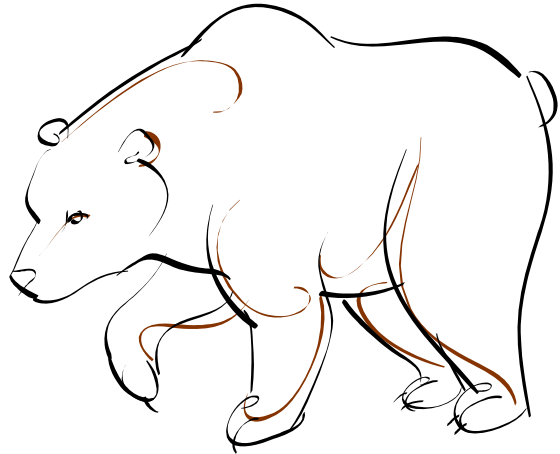


Blubber

What Do I Need?

- plastic container with ice water
- 4 plastic baggies
- shortening (Crisco)
- spatula
- 2 thermometers



What Do I Do?

1. First, we need to make a blubber glove by using the spatula to put shortening into one of the baggies.
2. Then, I will put a thermometer into a second clean baggie before I put it into the shortening baggie. This thermometer is now surrounded by blubber in the glove.
3. Next, I am going to put a second thermometer into the two remaining baggies so that the only difference between the thermometers is the shortening.
4. Put both thermometers into the ice water. Record the temperature.
5. You can also try placing your hand or finger into the blubber glove and ice water.

What's Going On?

Animals like whales, polar bears and seals have a layer of blubber or fat under their skin. The blubber acts as an insulator that prevents their body heat from escaping in the cold waters. The shortening we are using in this experiment acts as a layer of blubber to insulate the thermometer.

Polar bears have about 4 inches of blubber and a Grey whale has about 2, but a Blue whale can have about 16 inches.

