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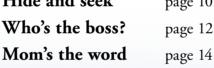
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# Welcome to the Arctic, the





Introduction page 4
What's up at 4 am? page 6
Baby seals page 8
Hide and seek page 10
Who's the boss?





10:00 am Morning

What's up at 10 am? page 16
Lumbering giant page 18
Under the ice page 20
Life on the edge page 22



## icy, remote land at the very top of the world.





What's up at 2 pm? page 24
Polar flight page 26
Arctic fast food page 28
Hairy beast page 30



6:00 pm Dusk

What's up at 6 pm? page 32
Traveling tails page 34
In for the kill page 36
Snow toes page 38



10:00 pm Night

What's up at 10 pm? page 40
Scavenger hunt page 42
Out cold page 44
Glossary page 46

Most of the Arctic is a big frozen sea with a few areas of land around the edges. Come and spend 24 hours with the animals that live there.



### 24:00 hours



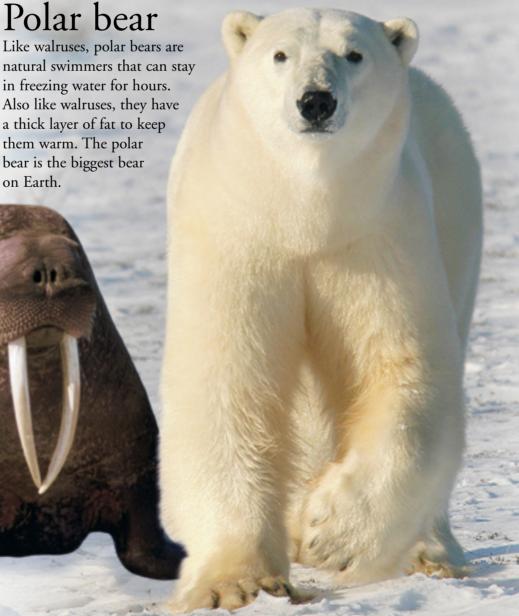


In most of the world, each 24-hour period is part day, part night—long days in summer, long nights in winter. At the poles, though, there is no dark night in summer and no bright day in winter. 24 Hours Arctic takes you through an April day with the animals that live there.

The Arctic is a huge ocean. It used to be ice covered all year round, but as the Earth gets warmer, more and more of it is thawing.

## Walrus

With their huge bodies, walruses are clumsy and comical on land or ice. They spend two-thirds of their lives in water, though, where they move quickly and gracefully, powered by flat flippers that act like big paddles.





## Snowy owl

Snowy owls are one of the few birds who live in the Arctic all year. When they nest, their chicks can all be different ages, since the mother starts hatching each egg as soon as it's laid. If food is scarce, the big chicks eat the little ones.

Throughout the book, these little shapes will appear with outlines of different creatures to give you an idea of how big the animals are. Our guide shapes are based on children about 3 ft 9 in (115 cm) tall.

Summer sun on Arctic lands North Pole

night

South Pole .

dau

Arctic deer

In the Canadian Arctic, these animals are called caribou, and they are wild. In north Europe, they are often domesticated, and the

term reindeer is used. Whatever their name, there are more of them in the Arctic than any other large mammal.

For much of the year, Arctic days are either all light or all dark. This is because the Earth's axis (an imaginary line through the center) is tilted toward the Sun in summer, so its rays shine on the Arctic full-time; the Sun's rays never reach the Arctic in winter. So, while animals in the rest of the world do things (like eat and sleep) at particular times of day, Arctic creatures can do almost any thing at almost any time.

## Arctic fox

Although they look similar to other foxes, Arctic foxes have slightly shorter legs, tails, ears, and muzzles. This difference helps protect them from the bitter cold because it means there is less surface area exposed to it.

## 4:00 am





At dawn, the short night begins to lift. At this time of year nights are dusky but never really dark, because the Sun doesn't set completely. All by himself on the shadowy ice, a harp seal pup lies resting and waiting for his mother to deliver his next meal.





## What's up at 4 o'clock?

Using his keen sense of smell, a **polar bear** stalks prey. If there's a seal breathing hole nearby, he has a good chance of catching his supper.



There's nothing like a horny hoof and a big pair of antlers when a **caribou** needs to scratch himself in hard-to-reach places.



This **Arctic fox** is tucking into the carcass of a bird he has killed. If he can't eat it all, some other hungry creature will finish the leftovers.



To pull his huge body out of the water and onto an ice floe, this basking **walrus** uses his long pointed tusks as levers.



Unlike other owls, snowies don't sleep in the day and hunt at night. They usually set out to find prey around dawn and dusk.





# Plentiful in Arctic seas,

harp seals are hugely sociable, living and traveling together in big, noisy groups. They gather on floating ice floes far from shore and dive for small fish in deep water. Harp-seal pups, born in late winter, are still very young in April.

Because of their pale fur, new babies are called "whitecoats."

## Baby seals



When they're first born, pups feed on their mom's rich milk. Soon they have a thick layer of blubber to keep them warm.



Two female seals both think this young pup is their own. If they can't work things out, there's likely to be a fight.

. These two are still youngsters, but their white fur has fallen out and a thinner, gray, adult coat has taken its place.

#### Ice, ice babies

Just before giving birth (called whelping), female harp seals haul themselves onto winter pack ice in their thousands. An area of ice where pups are born and nursed by their mothers is called a whelping patch.

For their first two weeks, pups just lie on the ice and wait for their moms to come and feed them. Their thick white fur keeps them warm.



## 7:00 am



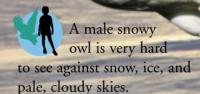
Many Arctic animals are white so they can't be seen in the snow. This natural disguise, called camouflage, conceals some creatures from predators and allows others to attack before they're spotted by prey.



Ermines are a kind of stoat, and, like all stoats, they have a black tail tip, even when the rest of their fur is white. If hungry birds spot this, and swoop down to nip it, the ermine can pull away quickly.



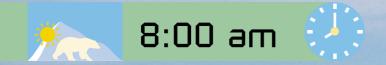
Arctic wolves are closely related to ordinary gray wolves. One big difference, though, is their coloring—they are always pale. This snarling creature is almost pure white, but Arctic wolves are sometimes cream or light gray.





## Hide and seek





# Except for humans, there are no animals in the Arctic that hunt polar bears. In addition to being the biggest bear in the world, this creature is the unchallenged ruler of the northern landscape.

#### Lone wanderer

With the exception of females with cubs, polar bears mostly live and hunt alone. They spend much of their lives on sea ice, hunting seals.

Males are about twice as big as females; they weigh up to 1,400 lbs (650 kg)—as much as ten people.



#### Bear behavior



A polar bear's sense of smell is much better than yours or mine—he can sniff a seal from several miles (kilometers) away.



These young males may look as if they're having a vicious battle. But, like many other animals, they just enjoying play fighting.



With their warm fur and thick layer of blubber, polar bears get overheated very easily. Sometimes a rest is the best thing.

#### Home is where the hunt is

Polar bears live in areas where there is a mix of land ice, sea ice, and sea. In spring, males spend about a quarter of their time hunting. When they're not hunting, they're sleeping or resting.



Like humans, polar..... bears walk on the soles of their feet, putting their heels down first.



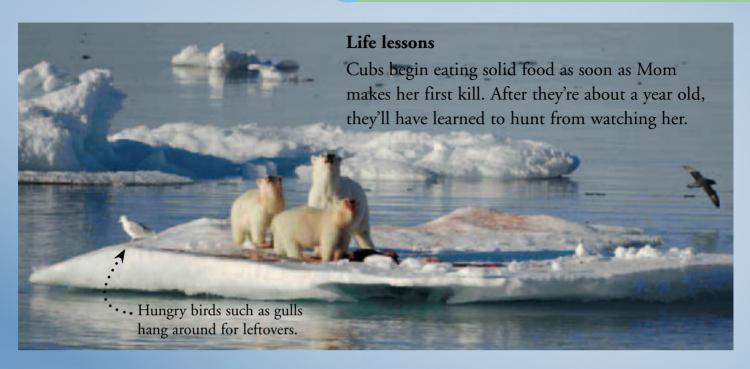
Female polar bears take care of their cubs until they're two or three years old—fathers aren't involved at all. Moms give birth (usually to two babies) in a den, and they don't come out until the cubs are several months old.

#### Safe at home

Cubs are born in the middle of winter, but they stay in their den until March or April. Before moms give birth, they have to store enough fat to nourish themselves for all that time, and to provide milk for their babies as well.

Watched by one of her babies, this mom enjoys being out in the open after her long months in the den.

Dens are usually in snow, but they can be dug out of snow-covered ground as well.





9:10 am Mom and her cubs eat and eat until they're stuffed. Nobody cares if they make a big mess.



9:50 am Phew! Three full bellies! Mom decides that breakfast time is over and calls her babies to join her in the water.



9:54 am Bears do most of their hunting on frozen bits of sea, so they're very good swimmers. Now they'll head home for a long nap.

Moms often make dens in big Snowdrifts along the coast.



## 10:00 am





# The Arctic sky is very

bright by 10:00 in the morning. A lone walrus, tired of sunning himself on an ice floe, lowers his body back into the sea. The visible splash is made by one of his back flippers, which propel him through the water.





## What's up at 10 o'clock?

Being able to break ice with his front paws is a very important hunting skill for a **polar bear**. Who knows? He might find food underneath.



There's still snow on the ground, so **reindeer** use their hooves and snouts to get at food underneath it. Mosses and lichens are particular favorites.



Male Arctic foxes usually hunt alone. They can cover huge distances—up to 600 miles (1,000 km)—in one trip looking for food.



Walruses are happy in water, and they're excellent swimmers. Like all his family, this one can stay submerged for up to half an hour.



Female **snowy owls** are a little bigger than males and flecked all over with brown. Males are mostly white with a few flecks on their chests and tails.







# With their chubby cheeks and

button noses, walruses look very cuddly. Big males are hard to cuddle, though—at 12 ft



(3.5 m) long and 3,750 lbs (1,700 kg), they are the size of a small car.

Walruses are mammals, so they breathe air like we do. This one is swimming and breathing out at the same time.





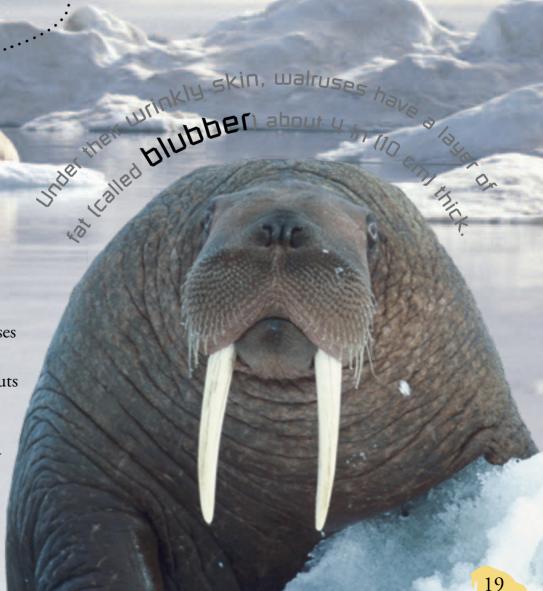
Walruses graze on the seabed for clams, sea cucumbers, and whelks. They live in shallow water so they can reach the surface to breathe.



Although they spend two-thirds of their lives in the water, walruses sometimes surface and rest on ice floes. Male walruses (or bulls) put on noisy displays of aggression. While they don't fight with their sharp tusks, these can cause injury accidentally. Some experts think they help to locate food.

#### Feeding faces

Both male and female walruses have tusks and mustache whiskers. They use their snouts and their sensitive whiskers to feel for food on the ocean floor, then get at the food by squirting water from their mouths to loosen tasty morsels and digging them out with their snouts.



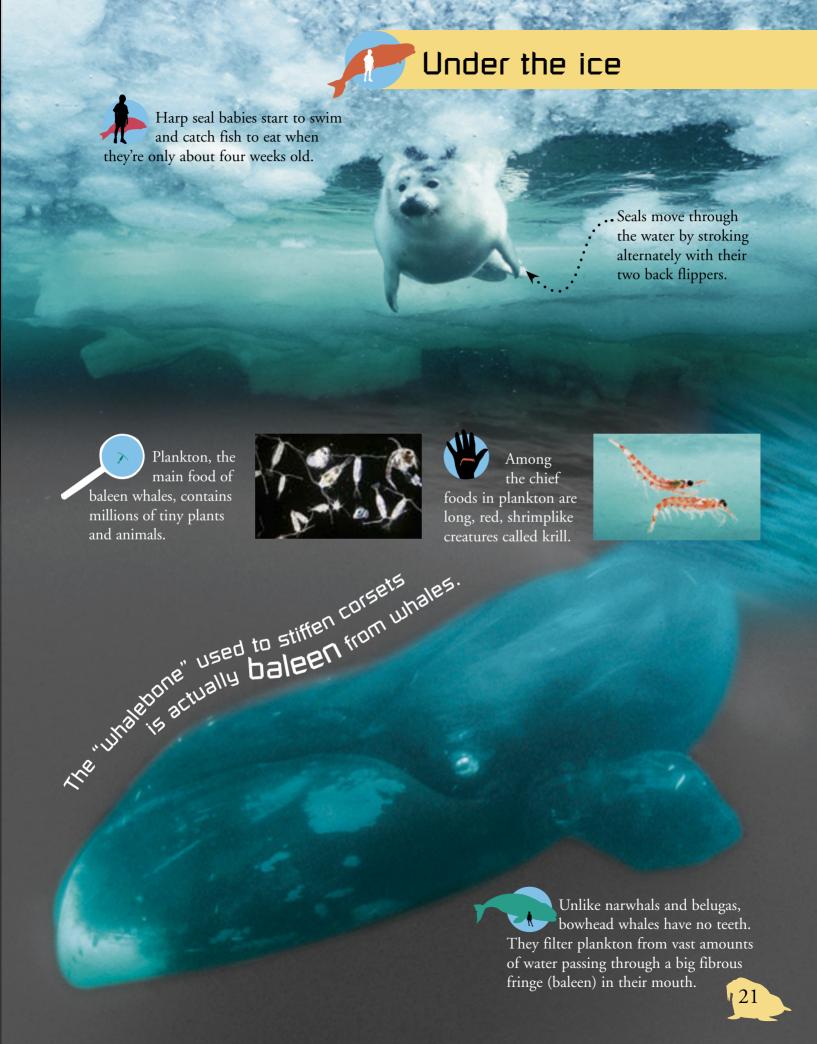
## Midday (1)

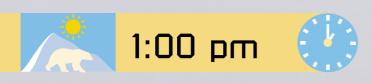
Lots of animals spend time under the sea. Even though it's freezing cold there, it's quite a bit warmer than the Arctic air, and there are lots of delicious fish to eat.

Narwhals are a type of small whale. The males have a single, straight tusk with spiral grooves along its length. Like a walrus tusk, this is actually a long tooth. Many historians think it inspired the myth of the unicorn.

In addition to swimming, walruses can also sleep underwater. To do this, they fill sacs in their throats with air. These act like floats, allowing the creatures to bob up and down while they snooze.

Pure white with smiley mouths, beluga whales have sharp teeth for eating fish and squid. Because they're small and a little slow, belugas are eaten by bigger whales—and even by polar bears.





Along Arctic shores, sheets of sea ice are firmly attached to the land. The place where this ice meets the open water—called the floe edge—attracts lots of animals and birds.



From the floe edge, polar bears can dive into the sea for safety if they sense danger.

During late spring and summer, there are lots of birds around the floe edge. This duck is called a spectacled eider—can you guess why?.....

The floe edge moves with the seasons.

In the winter, it's at its farthest point from land. Then, when the sea ice begins to melt in spring, the floe edge moves farther and farther in. Wind, waves, and currents also wear it away.

Eiders are "diving ducks"—they dive in the water for seafood and fish.









1 Little auks

Midafternoon, and the sky is full of little auks (also called dovekies). They breed in huge numbers in the spring, laying their eggs in sheltered holes and crevices in slopes or cliffs overlooking the sea.







## What's up at 2 o'clock?

Happy paddling through icy water, a hungry **polar bear** travels from one ice floe to another in search of a plump fish or marine mammal to eat.



Since they've broken into a gallop, these **caribou** have probably been startled, or they sense danger lurking near their herd.



To pounce on his prey hiding in the snow (a vole or a lemming, maybe), this **Arctic fox** springs high up into the air.



Walruses have thick, rough, very wrinkly skin covered with short, coarse hair. They are usually a dark grayishbrown color.



A **snowy owl** cruises the sky looking for lemmings to eat. If there are plenty, these birds live in the Arctic all year. If not, they go south in winter.



## 3:00 pm



Some Arctic birds, like snowy owls, ptarmigans, ravens, and some guillemots, live there all year round; they are called residents.

Others, such as geese, ducks, and terns, fly there to breed during the summer

The Arctic tern completes a spectacular migration every year—it flies 22,000 miles (35,400 km) to the Antarctic and back again!

months; these birds are known as migrants.

Eider ducks are migrants. They eat mostly shellfish—especially clams, which they crush with their strong bills and swallow whole.



Long-tailed (oldsquaw) ducks, which are very common in the Arctic, have dramatic brown-and-white coloring. They make a lot of noise calling to each other.



Arctic terns live and breed in large groups called colonies.....

When they're not breeding, common guillemots travel over or under the sea to find food. This one is doing his underwater flying trick.







The furry lemming occupies a very

important place in the Arctic food chain—at

the very bottom. Every one of the

region's meat-eating mammals and

birds see him as a snack. For some, like foxes

and snowy owls, he's their main diet, while

others turn to lemmings when bigger, meatier

prey is not available.

Long-tailed jaegers feed mainly on lemmings; sometimes they steal them from other birds. They even dig in the ground to get into the lemmings' burrows.

eat mostly plants, but I too !! Too !! Too !! Too !! Too !!

Because the lemming is a staple food for so many other creatures, animal communities in the Arctic depend on its existence. So, when the lemmings' food is scarce and their numbers fall, the other wildlife suffers as well.

"Please don't see me!"

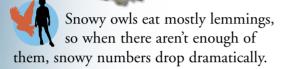
.. Collared lemmings grow long winter claws on their front feet so they can dig through the snow for their food.



## Arctic fast food



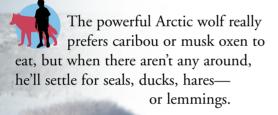
Gyrfalcons need lemmings—when there are lots of lemmings, there are lots of gyrfalcons, too.







Ermines may look sweet to us, but lemmings and voles—their chief prey—are terrified of them.

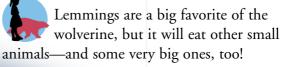






Small mammals in general—and lemmings in particular—make up the Arctic fox's diet.

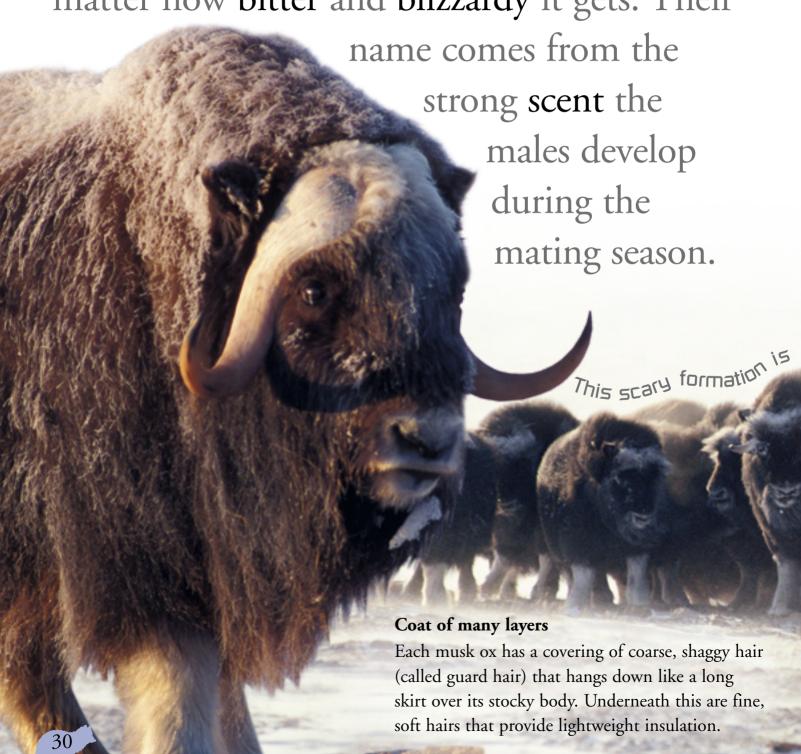








Mighty musk oxen are the only Arctic creatures who never need to seek shelter, no matter how bitter and blizzardy it gets. Their



# Hairy beast

Communal living



This very new calf has bumps where his horns will grow and a coat of short guard hair. Sometimes he keeps warm under his mother's skirt.

Because they're being threatened (probably by wolves or a polar bear), these adults form a circle facing outward, with the youngsters safe inside. "defensive Ting."



5:02 pm Once snow falls, it forms a crust that lasts until the thaw. In winter, oxen use their hooves to get at the lichen and grass they like to eat.



5:14 pm Adults can run as fast as 25 mph (40 kph). They move fast to escape enemies, and youngsters like to chase each other just for fun.



5:45 pm These males are "jousting"—facing off, backing away, then running at each other and headbutting. They will do this until one gives up.

Beneath their dark, hairy skirts, musk oxen have pale, furry legs...





Since they've spent the winter in the barren Arctic, these reindeer are very thin, but this may not be due to starvation. Some experts think that when winter approaches, reindeer instinctively eat less to reduce their weight. As a result, they don't need so much food to survive.





## What's up at 6 o'clock?

Despite being well fed and fat, this **polar bear** has killed a seal. He may eat only its skin and fat, but a hungry bear would strip the bones.



Caribou don't live in the very coldest part of the Arctic, but they wander very far north in spring, when the females (called cows) have their babies.



When a blizzard threatens, this **Arctic fox** protects his face from the cold by wrapping his thick, bushy tail all around his body.



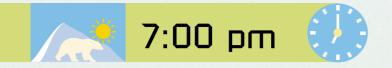
Walruses grunt very loudly when they're fighting or irritated.
When a group gathers together, the racket can be heard miles away.



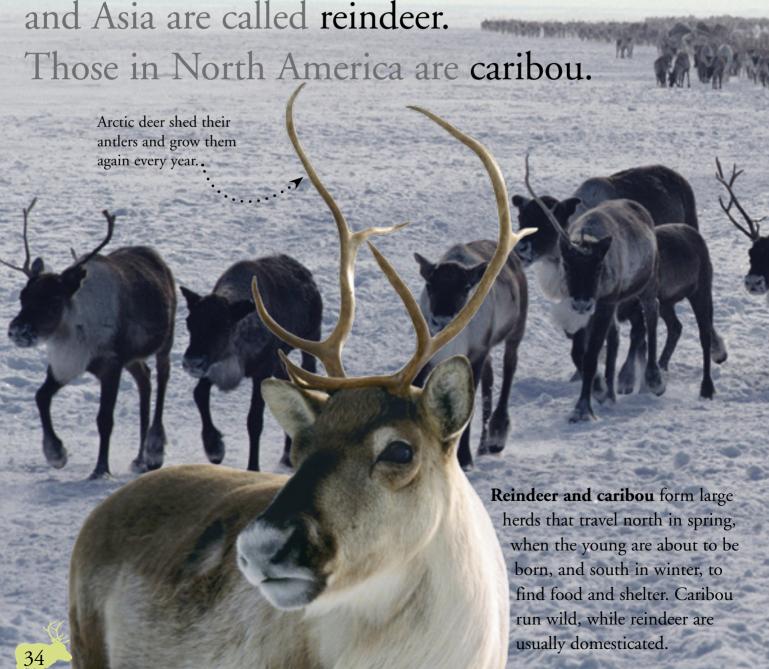
When a **snowy owl** captures prey, she hides it from other hunters by tucking it under her wing. This behavior is called "mantling."







Arctic deer migrate long distances, their hooves are adapted for snow, and males and females both have antlers. Members of this species (*Rangifer tarandus*) that live in Europe and Asia are called reindeer.





# Traveling tails



Arctic deer (like this caribou) use their hooves and snouts to get at grasses and lichens under the crusty snow.



Both caribou and reindeer migrate huge distances (up to 600 miles/1,000 km), but reindeer like these are usually accompanied by native human herders.





#### Survival of the fiercest





To us, the Arctic seems a harsh and cruel place where food is scarce. Many animals survive by hunting, killing, and eating other creatures—a way of life that is common in nature. Animals that do this are known as predators.

.Wolves cover huge distances across open icescapes in their search for food.



Ferocious wolverines are capable of killing mammals much larger than they are. This one is feeding on a caribou carcass.



There's nothing a polar bear likes more than a delicious seal supper on sea ice.







When you go outside in the winter, you wear special shoes or boots to keep your feet warm and to stop you from slipping on ice and snow. In the Arctic, animal feet need the same protection as yours would, so nature has provided special adaptations for the harsh environment.

A reindeer's toes spread out, acting like snowshoes to distribute his weight over a wide patch of snow or ice. The

feet stay flexible because they're

full of soft, fatty tissue.

The Arctic hare's long, silky, white fur covers his whole body, including his legs and feet. In the bitterest cold, hares sit on their back feet, which are insulated with particularly thick, coarse, yellowish fur.

.For grip, Arctic hares have clawed toes—four on the back paws and five on the front paws.



## Snow toes

When they walk across pack ice, polar bears leave clear tracks. These are very fresh, so the bear can't be far away! .



The ptarmigan's thick feathers reach the tips of his toes to protect him from cold. During the winter, feathers cover even the soles of his feet to enhance his grip.



Even though you can't see them, there are hundreds of tiny, wartlike bumps on the bottom a walrus fin. These help the huge creature to grip onto slippery ice floes.



Polar bears have thick, black, hairless, bumpy pads on the soles and toes of their paws. There are five clawed toes on each paw, with long hair in between.

Humans, Dolar bears, anly predators, to humt them.



# 10:00 pm





At nighttime in April, Arctic light is soft, pinkish, and dim. The Sun is still in the sky, even though it's very low, so animals don't necessarily sleep.

Lone polar bears like this one may hunt now, moving slowly and stealthily across large expanses of ice.





### What's up at 10 o'clock?

When a polar bear yawns, you can see that his nose, mouth, and tongue are black. Underneath his white fur, his skin is black too.



In Norway, herds containing thousands of **reindeer** are moving north for the summer—they even travel in heavy snowstorms.



This Arctic fox's thick winter coat keeps him cozy. In the summer, his fur is not only a different color—grayish brown—it's much finer, too.



Walrus tusks, which are actually long teeth, help to define a male's status within a group. The ones with big tusks tend to be the leaders.



A **Snowy owl's** big eyes are incredibly powerful—he can see well in the dark, and he can also spot prey on the ground from high in the sky.



41



Food can be scarce in the Arctic, so some animals eat what other animals leave behind from a kill. They also feed on the bodies of creatures that have died naturally, or even on human garbage. Occasionally—when starvation threatens—they go even further ...





A hungry wolf sniffs shed antlers in hope of finding a shred of flesh to chew on.

eating dead animals or human garbage.



Washed up on an Arctic beach, the carcass of a bowhead whale attracts scavenging polar bears. Although we think of seals as their main food, some experts believe that up to ten percent of their diet is made of whale meat.

# Scavenger hunt







Ravens are skilled scavengers that are often found picking at the carcasses of seals and caribou.

It's not only polar bears that eat seals. Glaucous gulls can't kill seals, but they scavenge on dead ones.



On land, Arctic foxes can be found hanging around polar bears. When food is very, very scarce, they sometimes eat bears' droppings.

Wolverines are well suited to scavenging—their powerful jaws and strong neck muscles allow them to crush bones and bite through frozen flesh.





# Animals who spend

their lives in the Arctic use up lots of energy just keeping warm, as well as moving around finding food. They need plenty of rest, but because there aren't always light days with dark nights here, they sleep whenever they feel like it.



Arctic foxes often wake up late in the evening, since they tend to spend all night hunting for lemmings. When they sleep, they curl themselves into tight balls.



A big slab of sea ice may seem like a funny place to lie down for a nap, but walruses are very comfortable there. They don't have soft fur like polar bears or foxes, but their blubber is so thick and warm that they can sleep soundly on the coldest, hardest bed.

# Out cold





Before he snuggles down for a nap, this polar bear digs out a comfortable hollow in a soft snow bank. Looking on is a pair of foxes hoping to scavenge his leftover food. Having just made their way through a fierce Arctic snowstorm, a herd of migrating reindeer settles into the fresh snow for a much-needed snooze.



.... The walruses in the middle of this cozy spoon-fashion group are adults. The ones at the ends, with smaller tusks, are youngsters.



#### Glossary

Here are the meanings of some of the important words you will come across as you read about the Arctic and the animals that live there.

**BALEEN** The long fringe made of keratin (like fingernails) that some whales have in their mouths to filter plankton from the water.

**BLUBBER** The thick layer of fat that some animals (like seals) have to protect them from cold.

Breed To produce babies.

**BURROW** A hole in the ground where an animal lives. Lemmings live in burrows.

**CARCASS** The dead body of an animal.

COLONY A group of animals that live together. Arctic terns and guillemots live in colonies.

**DEN** A safe resting place dug out of ground or snow by a wild, usually predatory, animal. Female polar bears make dens.

**FREEZING** What happens when water turns into solid ice.

**HERD** A large group of animals such as caribou that live and travel together.

**Hooves** The curved, horny feet on some animals. Reindeer and musk oxen have hooves.

**ICE** Water that gets so cold it freezes solid.

**ICE FLOE** A flat piece of floating sea ice.

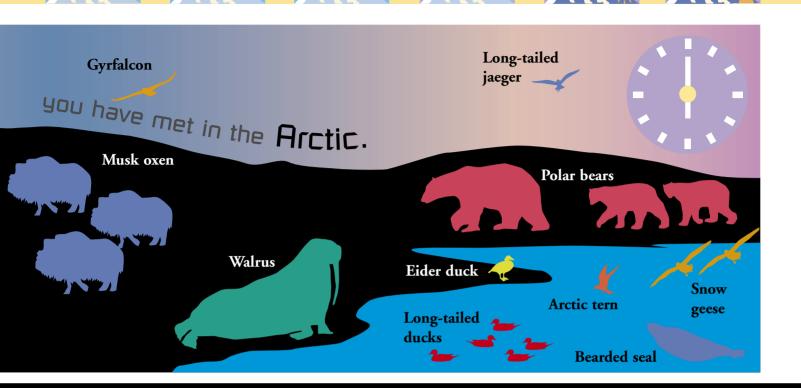
**Insulation** Material used to keep warmth or cold (or even sound) in one place. Blubber provides insulation from cold.

**Mammal** A warm-blooded animal that drinks its mother's milk when it's a baby.

MARINE Something connected with the sea. Seals and whales are marine mammals.

**MIGRATION** Moving from one place to another according to the seasons. Animals usually migrate to breed or find food.

**NATIVE** Animals, plants, or people that belong in a particular place. Polar bears are native to the Arctic.



**PACK ICE** The large masses of ice that result when the frozen sea breaks up.

**PLANKTON** The mass of tiny plants and animals that float around in the sea and provide food for fish and marine animals.

**PREDATOR** An animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals.

**PREY** An animal that is hunted, killed, and eaten by a predator.

**SCAVENGER** An animal that feeds on the carcasses of other animals, or on human garbage.

WHELPING PATCH A sheet of pack ice where a large group of female seals gather to give birth to their pups.

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#### Index

Arctic birds 26-27 Arctic deer 3, 7, 34-35 (see also caribou, reindeer) Arctic fox 3, 7, 17, 25, 29, 33, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45 Arctic hare 11, 36 Arctic tern 26, 27 Arctic wolf 10, 29, 31, 36, 37, 42 baleen 23, 46 camouflage 10-11 caribou 3, 7, 25, 33, 34-35, 36, 42, 43 (see also Arctic deer, reindeer) clam 21, 26 "dread" 27 Earth 3 eider duck 20, 26

ermine 10

floe edge 20-21 fulmar 27 guillemot 21, 26, 27 gull 15, 43 jaeger 28, 36 kittiwake 27 krill 23 lemming 28-29, 36, 44 little auk 24 long-tailed duck 26 musk oxen 30-31 narwhal 22 plankton 23 polar bear 2, 7, 12-13, 14-15, 17, 20, 25, 31, 33, 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 45 predators 36-37 ptarmigan 11, 36, 37, 39 raven 21, 43

reindeer 3, 17, 32, 34-35, 39, 45 (see also Arctic deer, caribou) scavenging 42-43 seal 6, 8-9, 12, 13, 21, 23, 36, 43 bearded 21 harp 6, 8-9, 23 shrimp 21 snow geese 27 snowy owl 2, 7, 10, 11, 17 25, 28, 29, 33, 39, 42 squid 21 Sun 5, 6 unicorn 22 walrus 2, 7, 16, 17, 18-19, 21, 22, 25, 33, 39, 42, 44 whale 22, 23, 43 whelping 9 wolverine 29, 36, 43

