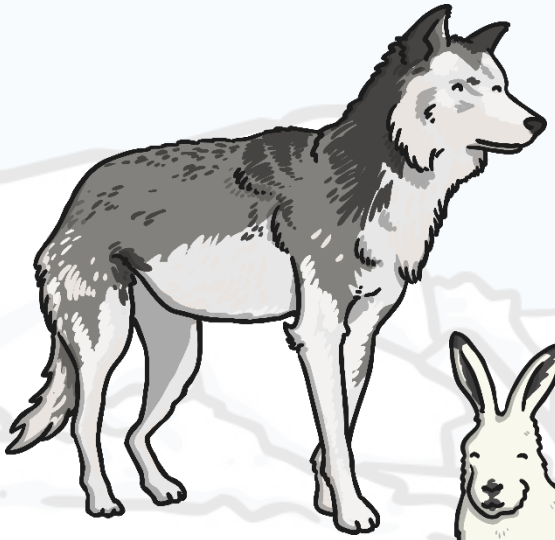
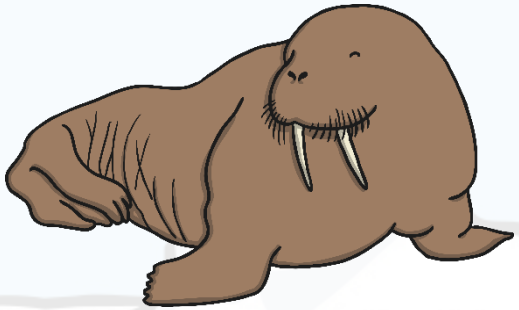
Arctic Animals



Click on an Arctic animal to find out a little more about it.

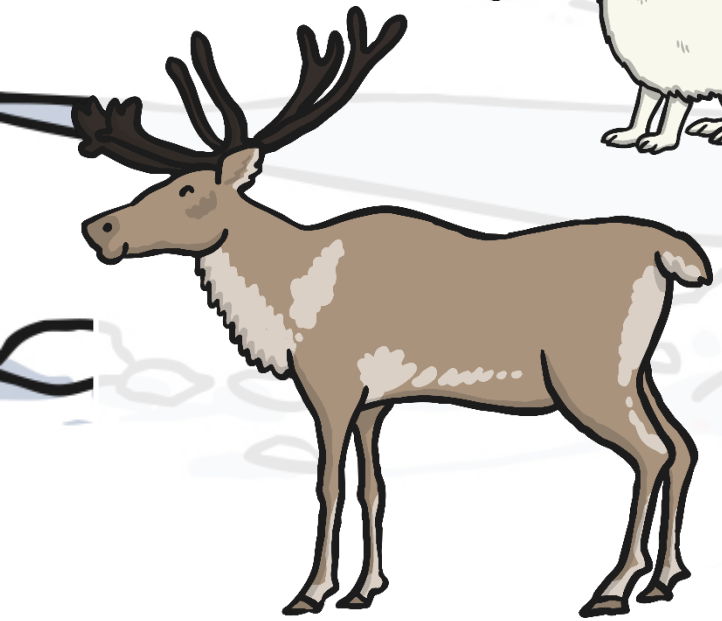




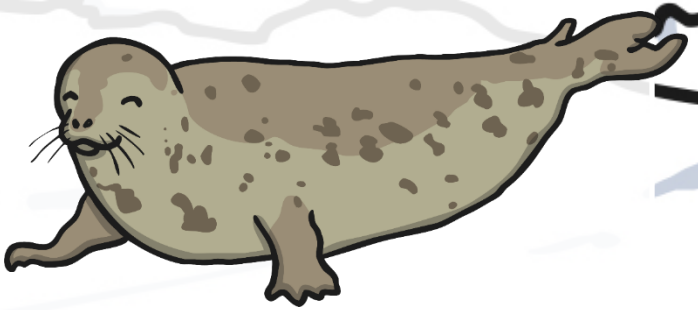












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Polar Bear

Polar bears are the largest carnivores (meat eaters) that live on land.

Polar bears use the Arctic sea ice to hunt seals.

Seals make up most of a polar bear's diet.

They have black skin and although their fur appears white, it is actually see through!

They have a layer of blubber beneath their skin to keep them warm.

Young polar bears, called cubs, are born between November and January while their mothers are hibernating in a den.



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Arctic Hare

Arctic hares are much bigger than your average pet rabbit and have shorter ears.

They have a very thick fur coat to protect them in the cold. Their fur is blue/grey in the summer so they can blend in with the rocks. In winter their fur turns white to blend with the snow.

They dig burrows beneath the snow

They are hunted by Arctic foxes.

Young arctic hares are called leverets and can see clearly as soon as they are born.



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Arctic Fox

Arctic foxes have the warmest fur on the planet.

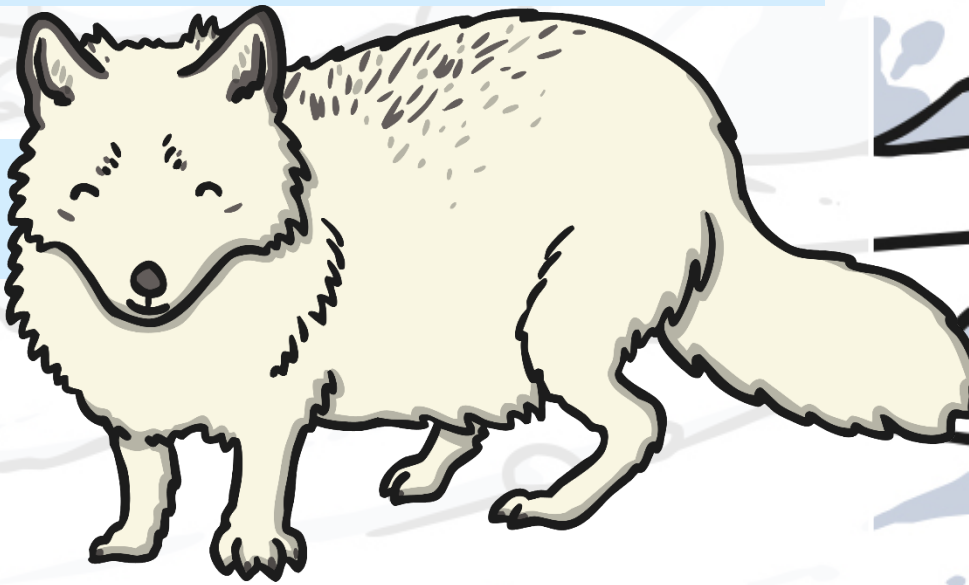
Their fur is brown/grey in the summer so it can blend in with the rocks. In winter their fur turns white to blend with the snow.

They have a round body, short legs and short ears and a big bushy tail which is used as a blanket.

They live in underground burrows.

They have excellent hearing and sense of smell for hunting.

Female arctic foxes give birth to between 6 and 16 pups.



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Snowy Owl

Snowy owls hunt at day and night.

Their favourite food is lemmings (a small rodent) but they also hunt other animals such as the Arctic hare.

They have feathery legs and toes to keep them warm.

They perch on rocks as there are no trees.

Once young owls (owlets) hatch, the male owl provides food for the female and young owls which do not leave their nest for around 25 days. The owlets are able to fly after around 50 days.



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Reindeer

Reindeer are also known as caribou.

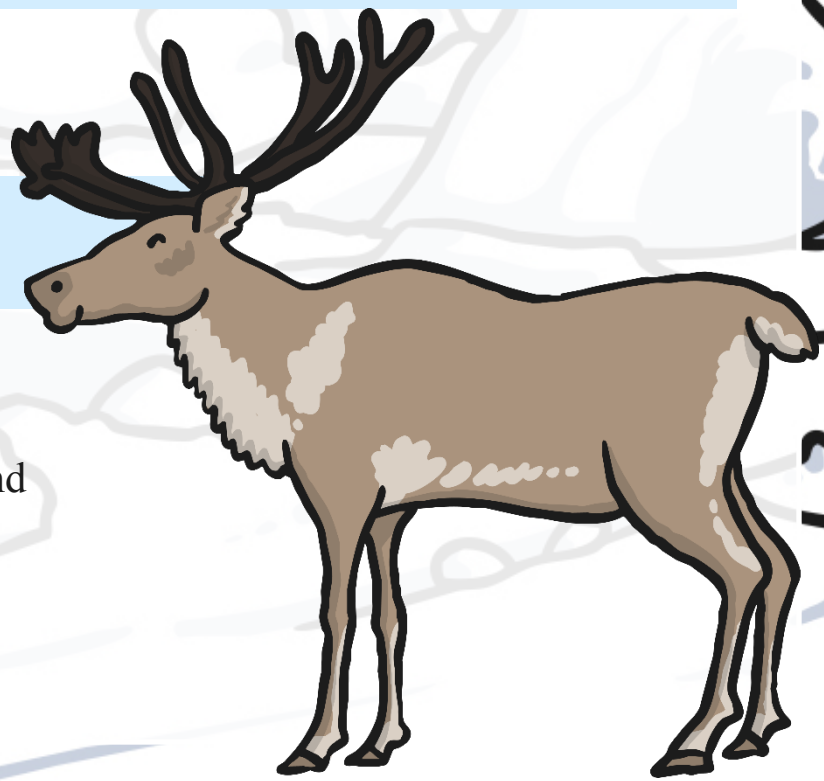
They feed on moss, grass and plants.

Males and females have very large antlers.

In winter, reindeer travel south to avoid the cold weather.

Their hooves are sharp which help them walk on ice and rocks.

At birth, a baby reindeer, called a calf, weighs 5 to 20 lbs. (2.5 to 9 kg).
Calves start growing their first set of antlers around their second birthday.



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Seal

Seals in the Arctic live on the sea ice and dive into the water through gaps to hunt for fish and crustaceans.

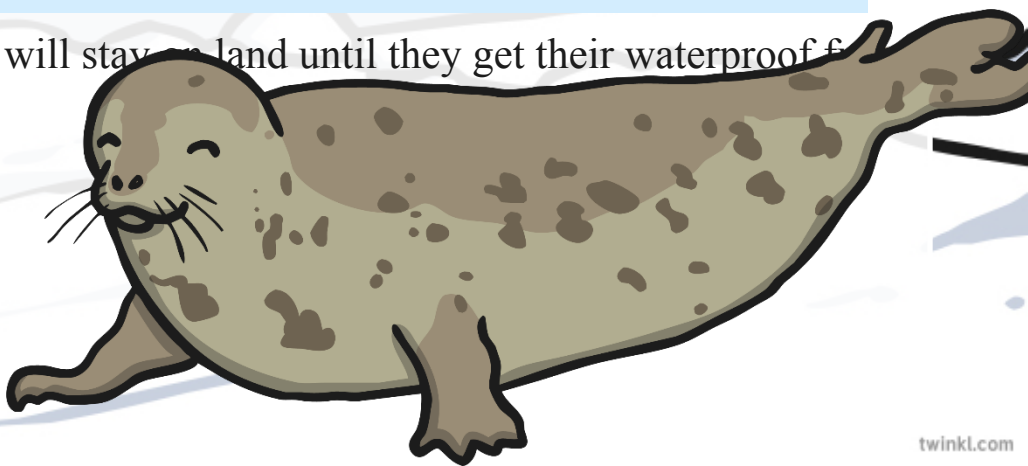
They pull themselves along the sea ice with their front flippers which have strong claws.

They have a thick layer of fat called blubber beneath their skin to keep them warm.

Baby seals are born with thick fur to keep them warm. This thins as the seals get fatter.

They are hunted by polar bears.

Mothers carry their young for around 10 months then dig nests in the sand to have their young. Baby seals, called pups, will stay on land until they get their waterproof f which can take around a month.



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Walrus

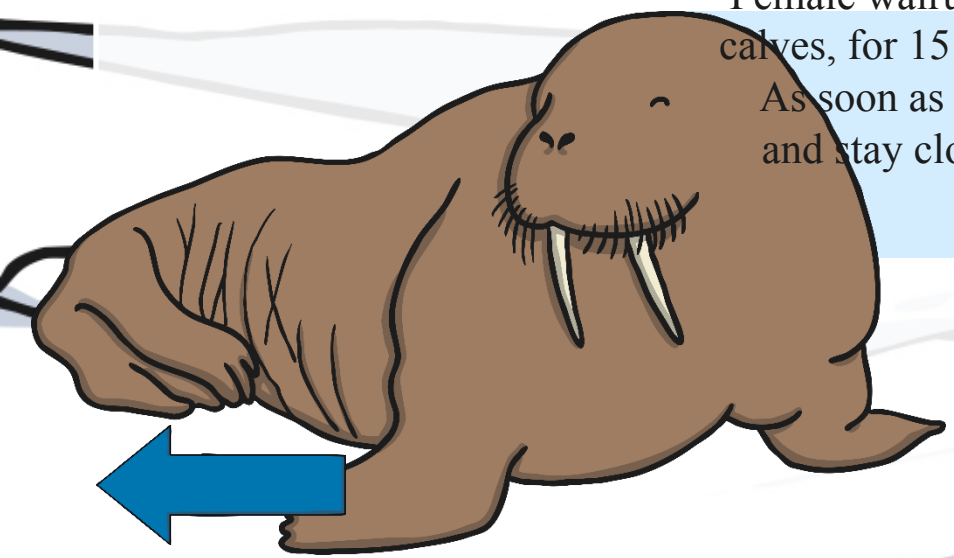
Walruses have two large tusks which are used for cutting through ice, defence and getting out of the water.

They also have whiskers which help them find shellfish to eat.

They have a thick layer of fat called blubber beneath their skin to keep them warm.

Walruses are social animals and can be found in big groups on the ice.

Female walruses carry their young, called calves, for 15 to 16 months before giving birth. As soon as a calf is born, they can swim and stay close to their mothers for 3 years.



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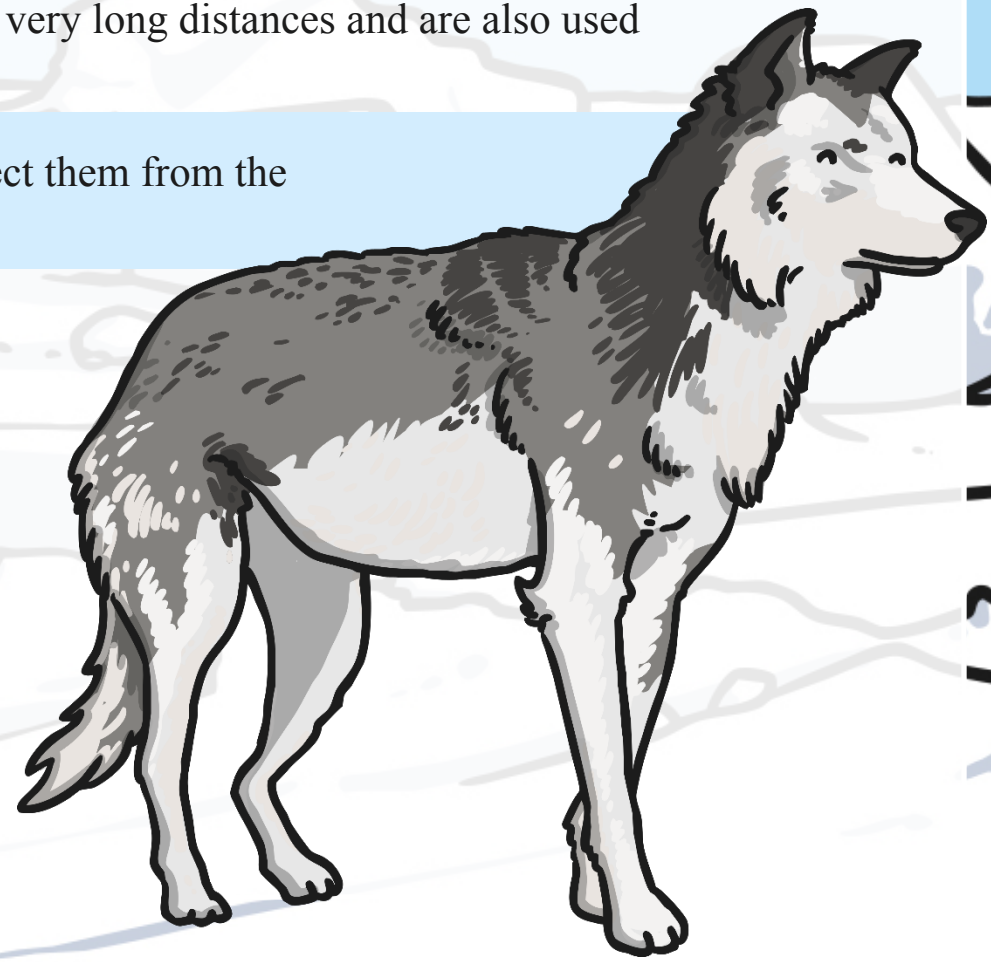
Husky

Huskies are dogs that pull sleds in the Arctic regions.

They are really good at pulling sleds for very long distances and are also used in sled dog races.

Huskies have thick double coats to protect them from the harsh weather.

Husky pups are usually born in a litter of between 4 and 8 pups.



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