Arctic Animals: Survival in Frozen Lands

Grade 5 | English | Nonfiction | Arctic animals Theme | ~124 words | CCSS.ELA.RI.5.8

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.

Arctic animals have adapted to survive in one of Earth's harshest environments. Scientists study these remarkable creatures to understand how life persists in extreme cold. Polar bears have thick fur and blubber that insulate their bodies against freezing temperatures. Musk oxen huddle together in groups, sharing warmth during brutal winters. Arctic foxes change their coat color from brown to white, allowing them to blend with snow and hunt prey more effectively. Beluga whales migrate through icy waters, using echolocation to navigate beneath thick ice sheets. These animals demonstrate incredible survival strategies developed over thousands of years. By learning about arctic animals, we gain insight into nature's amazing problem-solving abilities. Scientists hope this knowledge helps protect these species as climate change threatens their frozen homes.

Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.

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✏ **ANSWER** *USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.*

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What are two adaptations mentioned that help polar bears survive in the Arctic?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'insulate' mean in this passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why would an arctic fox's white coat be more helpful than a brown coat in winter?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens to musk oxen when they huddle together in groups?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. According to the passage, how do beluga whales navigate through icy waters?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Arctic Animals: Survival in Frozen Lands

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Arctic animals have adapted to survive in one of Earth's harshest environments. Scientists study these remarkable creatures to understand how life persists in extreme cold. Polar bears have thick fur and blubber that insulate their bodies against freezing temperatures. Musk oxen huddle together in groups, sharing warmth during brutal winters. Arctic foxes change their coat color from brown to white, allowing them to blend with snow and hunt prey more effectively. Beluga whales migrate through icy waters, using echolocation to navigate beneath thick ice sheets. These animals demonstrate incredible survival strategies developed over thousands of years. By learning about arctic animals, we gain insight into nature's amazing problem-solving abilities. Scientists hope this knowledge helps protect these species as climate change threatens their frozen homes.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

> The passage is mainly about how arctic animals have adapted to survive in extremely cold environments and what scientists learn from studying them.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What are two adaptations mentioned that help polar bears survive in the Arctic?

> According to the passage, polar bears have thick fur and blubber that insulate their bodies against freezing temperatures.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'insulate' mean in this passage?

> Insulate means to protect something from heat loss by covering it with material that keeps warmth inside.

INFERENCE

4. Why would an arctic fox's white coat be more helpful than a brown coat in winter?

> A white coat helps the arctic fox blend in with the snow, making it easier to sneak up on prey without being seen.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens to musk oxen when they huddle together in groups?

> When musk oxen huddle together in groups, they share warmth with each other, which helps them survive the brutal winters.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. According to the passage, how do beluga whales navigate through icy waters?

> The passage states that beluga whales use echolocation to navigate beneath thick ice sheets.