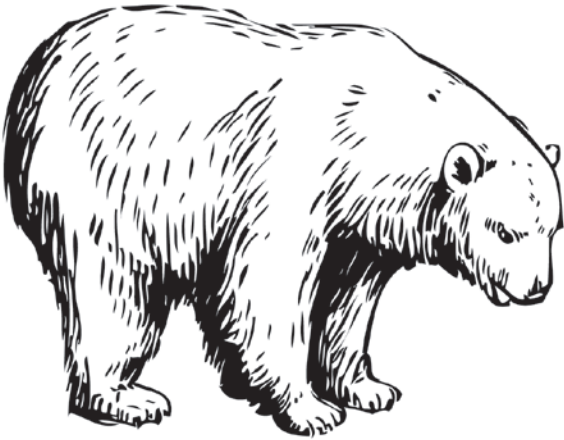


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## The Arctic and its Animals

The Arctic is the northernmost region of Earth. Despite its cold temperature some animals (and people!) manage to live there. Use this webquest to learn more about the Arctic and its animals.

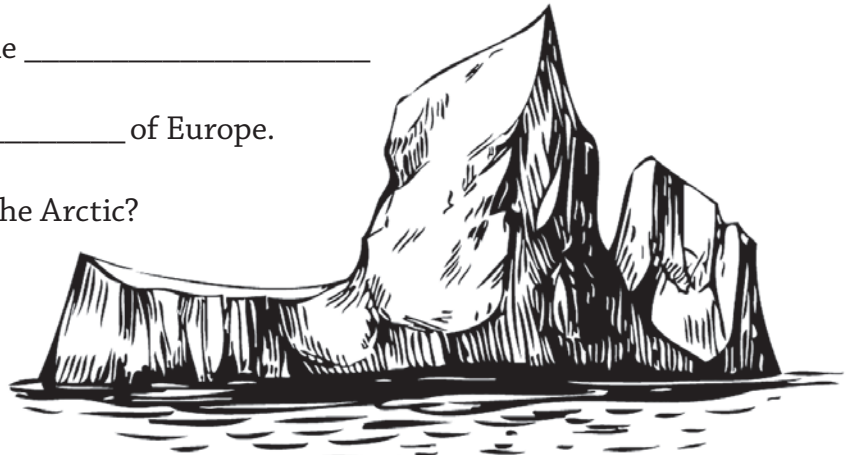
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### Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Arctic, you can start by searching the key word "Arctic."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

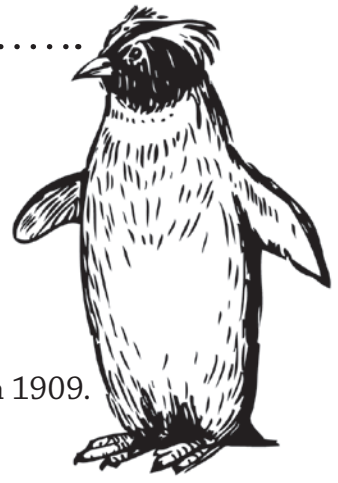
- The Arctic surrounds the \_\_\_\_\_ and includes the northern areas of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The word "Arctic" comes from "Arktos" (bear), the ancient Greek name for what?
- What are the three land regions that the Arctic can be divided into:  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_
- The native peoples of the Arctic include the \_\_\_\_\_ of North America and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe.
- How cold can winter temperatures get in the Arctic?



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## True or False

Write "True" if the statement about the Arctic is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Arctic is rich in minerals, natural gas, and petroleum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. John Franklin claimed to be the first person to reach the North Pole in 1909.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Arctic climate is cold because the area receives relatively little energy from sunlight.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Many scientists define the Arctic as the northern region with an average July temperature lower than 32 °F (0 °C).

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## Arctic Animals

Answer the questions below to learn more about some of the animals that live in the Arctic.

10. What color are most Arctic foxes in the summer and in the winter? (Hint: For this question see the "Arctic fox" article.)
11. What is unusual about the narwhal's tusk? (Hint: For this question see the "Narwhal" article.)
12. Caribou and reindeer make up a single species of deer. Where do these animals live? (Hint: For this question see the "Caribou" and "Reindeer" articles.)
- (a) Caribou are native to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Reindeer are native to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
13. How do musk oxen defend themselves when they are attacked by wolves? (Hint: For this question see the "Musk ox" article.)
14. What protects polar bears from the bitter cold? (Hint: For this question see the "Polar bear" article.)

15. How do snowy owls hunt? (Hint: For this question see the “Snowy owl” article.)
16. What color fur do Artic wolves (or tundra wolves) have? (Hint: For this question see the “Wolf” article.)
17. What happens to the lemming population about every four years? (Hint: For this question see the “Lemming” article.)
18. What do Arctic hares do when they are alarmed? (Hint: For this question see the “Arctic hare” article.)
19. How big and how heavy can a pair of moose antlers get? (Hint: For this question see the “Moose” article.)

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## Map It!

*At the top of the “Arctic” article, you will find the map “The Arctic.” Study the map and answer the following questions.*

20. Name three countries that have land north of the Arctic Circle.
21. Are the North Pole and the North Magnetic Pole in the same location?
22. The North Pole lies in which ocean?





# Teacher Page

## Answers:

1. The Arctic surrounds the North Pole and includes the northern areas of North America, Europe, and Asia.
2. The word “Arctic” comes from “Arktos” (bear), the ancient Greek name for a constellation that appears in the northern sky.
3. (a) polar deserts  
(b) tundra  
(c) subarctic
4. The native peoples of the Arctic include the Inuit of North America and the Sami of Europe.
5. Winter temperatures in the Arctic may drop below  $-76^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
6. True.
7. False. Robert Peary claimed to be the first person to reach the North Pole in 1909.
8. True
9. False. Many scientists define the Arctic as the northern region with an average July temperature lower than  $50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
10. Most Arctic foxes are brown or gray in the summer and white in the winter.
11. Male narwhals have a spiral ivory tusk typically about 8 feet (2.4 meters) long that juts out of the left side of the upper jaw.
12. a. Caribou are native to Greenland and northern North America.  
b. Reindeer are native to northernmost Europe and Asia.
13. When attacked by wolves, a group of 10 to 20 musk oxen forms a circle. The largest bulls and cows stand with their massive heads and sharp horns pointing outward, protecting the young in the center.
14. The large size, fur, and the thick layers of fat beneath their skin protect polar bears from the bitter cold.
15. Snowy owls hunt by sitting on rocks or other high spots in the tundra and watching and listening for prey around them. When they see or hear prey, they glide from their perch and grab the prey in their strong talons.
16. Arctic wolves (or tundra wolves) have white fur.
17. About every four years, lemming populations in the wild decline greatly. (Numbers then increase to levels similar to those before the declines.)

18. When alarmed, Arctic hares stand up on their hind feet to survey their surroundings. Eyes on the side of their head allow hares to see in nearly all directions, even behind them.
19. A pair of moose antlers may measure 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 meters) wide and weigh as much as 85 pounds (39 kilograms).
20. Answers will vary. Students should have any 3 of the following countries: Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States (Alaska). Much of Greenland, a self-governing territory of Denmark, is also north of the Arctic Circle. Also, one of Iceland's island that is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of the mainland, touches the Arctic Circle.
21. No, the North Pole and the North Magnetic Pole are in different locations.
22. The North Pole lies in the Arctic Ocean.