

## SECTION 1

# ANIMALS IN COLD HABITATS

In this section you will learn about animals in cold habitats. Do you have a globe? Find the North Pole and the South Pole. The animals in Lesson 2 live near the North Pole. The animals in Lesson 3 live near the South Pole.

### Lesson 2

### Animals of the Tundra

STUDY

WORDS WORDS

**lichens** (lī • kənz). A food that grows in the tundra.

**tundra** (tən • drə). A very cold area where trees cannot grow.

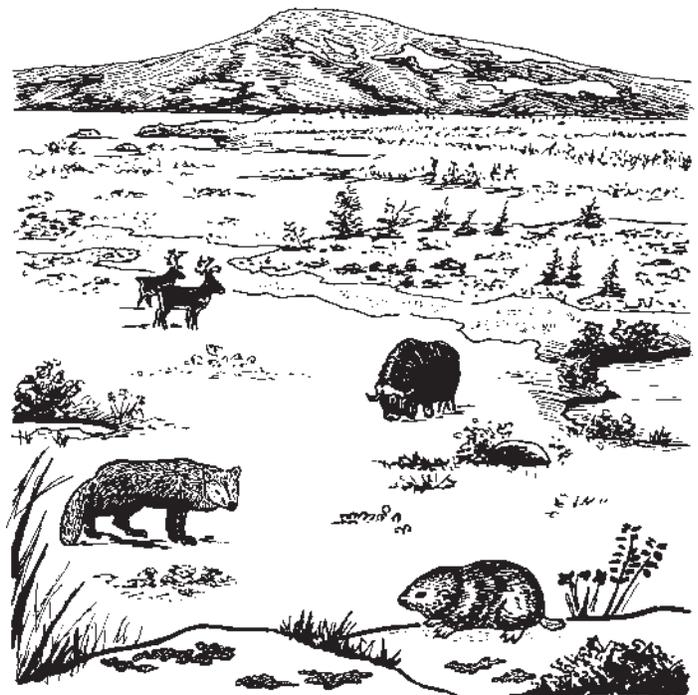
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Say these words to someone.

Near the North Pole is the land we call the **tundra**. The tundra is very cold and dry. Snow covers the ground for more than half of the year. No trees can grow there, but moss, **lichens**, and a few other plants can.



Can animals live in a place so cold? Yes, many animals live in the tundra.

## Musk Ox

One of the biggest tundra animals is the musk ox. Musk oxen have long, curved horns and thick, shaggy hair. Their hair keeps them warm. Underneath their long hair is another layer of short hairs. The short hairs keep out cold and wet.



Musk oxen eat the small plants that grow in the tundra. When snow covers the ground, they must scrape it away with their hoofs to find the mosses and lichens underneath.

## Lemming

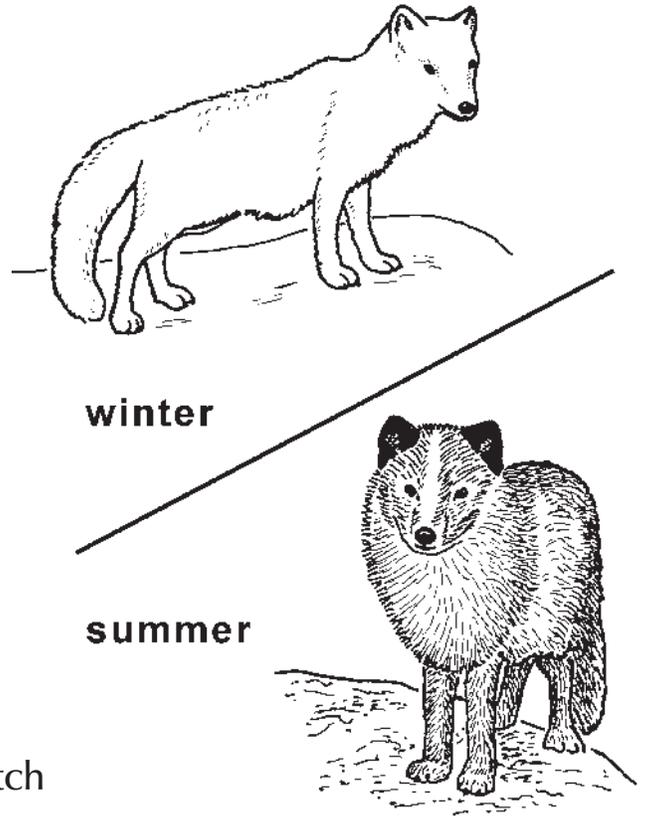
Lemmings are small tundra animals somewhat like mice. They dig warm tunnels under the ground and store seeds in their tunnels to eat.



Lemmings must be very careful when they leave their tunnels, because another animal would like to eat them. That animal is the arctic fox.

## Arctic Fox

Arctic foxes eat lemmings and other small animals. A fox's coat helps it catch its food. In the winter when snow is on the ground, its coat is white. The fox looks just like its surroundings. In the summer when there is no snow, its coat is brown. It still looks like its surroundings. It is camouflaged so that it can sneak up on little animals and catch them without them seeing it.



Arctic foxes have long thick fur to keep them warm. They also have small short ears. If a fox's ears were long, they would get cold much faster. God knew that the arctic fox would need long hair and short ears for its cold habitat. God made the tundra animals just right for their habitat.



Circle *T* or *F*.

1. **T**    **F**    A lemming is somewhat like a mouse.
2. **T**    **F**    No animals can live in the tundra because it is too cold.
3. **T**    **F**    Musk oxen have long, shaggy hair.
4. **T**    **F**    The arctic fox's coat changes color in the summer.



**Match the animals to the foods they eat.**

- |               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5. musk ox    | seeds                             |
| 6. lemming    | lichens, mosses, and other plants |
| 7. arctic fox | lemmings and other small animals  |



**Answer these questions.**

8. Why did God give tundra animals long, thick hair?

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9. Why are short ears better for a cold habitat than long ears?

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**Do this activity.**

Learn about some more animals that live in the tundra. Choose one of the animals from the box and read about it in the encyclopedia.

walrus  
polar bear  
caribou  
snowy owl  
ptarmigan

**WE REMEMBER**

Draw a line from each phrase to *mammals* or *reptiles*.

1. lay eggs

feed babies milk

have scaly skin

**reptiles**

**mammals**

are warm-blooded

are cold-blooded

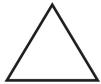
have hair

**STUDY**

**Antarctica** (ănt • ärk • tĩ • kə). The continent around the South Pole.

**blubber** (bləb • ər). The fat of whales, seals, and other large sea animals.

**coast** (kōst). Land along the sea.



Say these words to someone.

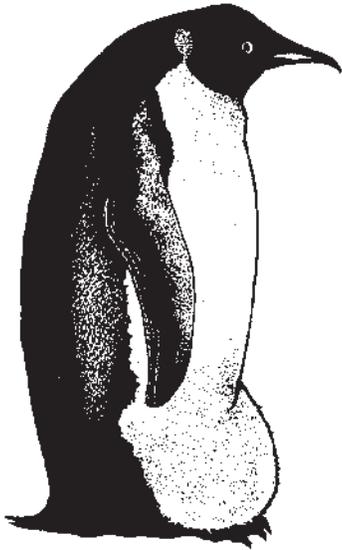
Look at the bottom of your globe. Do you see the land at the South Pole? That is the continent of **Antarctica**.

Antarctica is covered with ice and is very cold. Most parts of it are so cold that only very tiny animals can live there. But some animals live on the **coast** where it is warmer.

## Penguin

Penguins are black-and-white birds that live on the coast of Antarctica. They cannot fly, but they can swim.

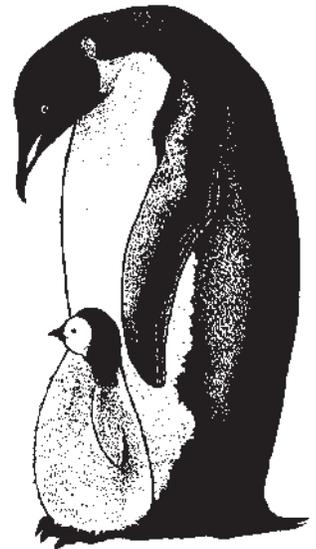
Penguins love to swim, and they eat fish. They spend most of their time in the water. Their feathers keep water off of them. They have thick layers of fat to keep them warm.



Four kinds of penguins live in Antarctica. Some of them build nests. But one kind of penguin does something different.

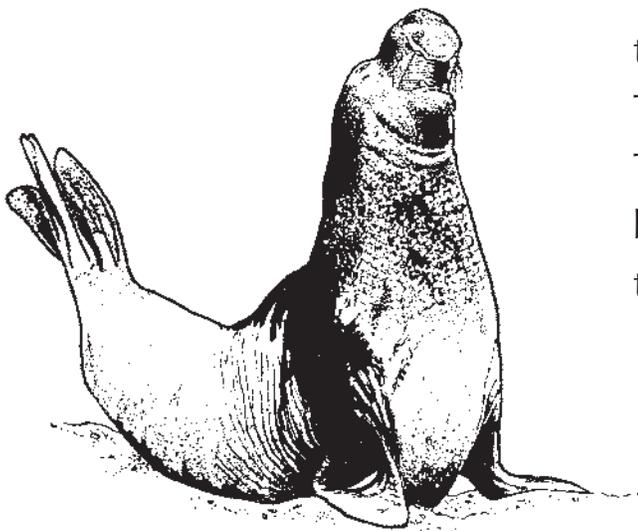
The mother lays one egg right on the ice. Then the father rolls the egg onto his feet and covers it with his warm, fat belly. He keeps the egg warm until the

baby penguin hatches. Then the mother comes to help him take care of the baby.



## Southern Elephant Seal

Many seals live in Antarctica. Seals have four flippers that look like paddles. The flippers help the seals swim fast. They must be able to swim well to catch their food. They eat small sea animals.

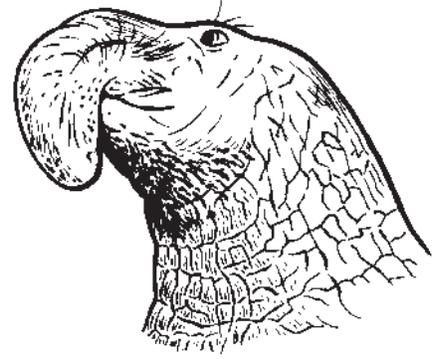


Southern elephant seals are the largest seals in the world. They can weigh 8,000 pounds! They have a thick layer of **blubber** to keep them warm in the cold water.

How do you think elephant seals got their name? They are called

Lesson 3

elephant seals because of their long noses. An elephant seal's nose looks like an elephant's trunk.



Put a ✓ beside the things God gave to animals in cold habitats.

- 2.  a long tail
- 3.  thick fur
- 4.  short ears

- 5.  tiny eyes
- 6.  fat



Fill in the blanks.

- 7. Seals have four \_\_\_\_\_ that help them swim.
- 8. Penguins love to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. Most of Antarctica is covered with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ penguin keeps the egg warm.
- 11. An elephant seal has a \_\_\_\_\_ nose that looks like an elephant's trunk.