

Science Story Adventures



Arctic Animals

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Plants and animals have predictable life cycles. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: *California's Science Content Standards*

Books we read

Little Caribou by Sarah Fox-Davies

Polar Bear Night by Lauren Thompson

Activities we did

- » We talked about the different ways caribou are adapted to living in the Arctic.
- » We examined antlers and horns and talked about how they are similar and different.
- » We examined specimens from walrus and talked about how their different physical characteristics help them survive.

Today's craft: Caribou Puppet



You will need:

- » Paper lunch bag
- » Brown construction paper
- » Pencil
- » Scissors
- » Glue
- » Googly eyes
- » Black marker

Directions:

1. Trace your hand on the construction paper two times and cut each one out. These will be the antlers.
2. Glue the antlers onto the back of the paper bag.
3. Fold bottom corners of flap under, to create a face shape.
3. Glue on googly eyes and draw nose and mouth.

Adapted from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/paperbag/>

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Animal Migration by Janet McDonnell. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL754 .M38 1989

Includes a short section on caribou within the larger context of animals migrating.

The Life Cycle of a Polar Bear by Rebecca Sjonger & Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C27 S57 2005

Describes polar bears from young to old and throughout the seasons. Also discusses why they are endangered.

Morsas por Sarah Palmer. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .P62 P3418 1991*

Dive into the world of walruses as you learn about what they look like and how they act.

North American Animals of the Arctic by Colleen O. Mastin. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL736 .M28 1997

Has a poem and short description for several Arctic animals, including caribou and polar bears.

Over in the Arctic: Where the Cold Winds Blow by Marianne Berkes. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ8.3 .B4555 Ov 2008

A playful introduction to Arctic animal parents and their young that can be read or sung. Includes a bibliography and ideas for extension activities.

Survival at 40 Below by Debbie S. Miller. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH 543.2 .M55 2010

Describes how animals, including caribou, survive and thrive in the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

**Libro en español*

Media

Arctic & Antarctic. Nat. Ctr. Media QL104 .A72 1996 (VHS)

Explores the animals of these polar regions and how they are adapted to survive in a harsh environment.

Dinosaur Train: Dinosaurs in the Snow. Nat. Ctr. Media PN1992.77 .D543 D563 2010 (DVD)

A collection of winter and celebration-related episodes. In the episode "Dinosaurs in the Snow" travel with the Pteranodon family to the Arctic to learn more about this amazing place.

Websites

Arctic Studies Center: Arctic Wildlife

Learn about different Arctic animals with a biologist from the National Museum of Natural History.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/wildlife.html>

National Geographic Creature Feature: Caribou

Video, map, and printable fact card.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/caribou/>

San Diego Zoo's Animal Bytes: Polar Bears

Polar bear profile plus links to webcam and blog.

http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-polar_bear.html