

VENTURE ARCTIC PREDATORS



ARCTIC PREDATORS

- Predators living in the Arctic face many unique obstacles.
 - Limited vegetation & Scarcity of food
 - Limited shelter & hiding places
 - Ever changing terrain (ice melting, heavy storms)
 - Seasonal changes in light
 - Extreme Temperatures



SPECIALIZED PREDATORS

- Arctic predators must have special adaptations in order to survive and hunt in such a difficult habitat.



POLAR BEARS

- Polar Bears are only found around the Arctic Ocean and the nearby seas.
- Males are 7.9- 8.9 feet in length and weigh 900-1600 pounds!
- Females are approximately half the size of males.



FUN FACT: Polar bears are the largest land predator, TWICE the size of a lion or a tiger!

ARCTIC ADAPTATIONS



- Polar Bears have **BLACK** skin to help absorb heat from the sun.
- They have a thick white undercoat for warmth and camouflage.
- And a top “guard coat” that is water repellent!
- They also have huge webbed paws to help them walk on ice and swim faster.

HUNTING & PREY



- Polar Bears have a hard time catching prey in open water.
- They rely heavily on cracks and breathing holes in the sea ice in order to trap their prey.
- They need a lot of fat in their diet and eat mostly seals.
- When the sea ice is gone they live off reserves and some terrestrial animals.

POLAR BEAR SURVIVAL



- Polar Bears have no natural predators.
- The melting trends in the sea ice are making it hard for Polar Bears to get food and survive.
- They are currently classified as a “Vulnerable” species.

ARCTIC WOLF

- They are a subspecies of the gray wolf.
- They are shorter and bulkier than other wolves.
- They are only found in the Canadian Arctic and parts of Greenland.



FUN FACT: Arctic wolves are not very wary of humans and have even allowed people to live with their packs!

ARCTIC ADAPTATIONS



- They have a snow-white coat which provides great camouflage.
- They have much smaller ears than other wolves, which helps them maintain their body heat.
- They can't dig because of the permafrost in the Arctic, so they use rock caves instead.

HUNTING AND PREY

- Arctic wolves hunt in packs and mostly prey on caribou and muskoxen.
- They will follow caribou herds in winter in order to sustain themselves.
- They roam areas exceeding 1000 square miles in order to find prey!
- They have a symbiotic hunting relationship with ravens.

WOLVERINE

- Wolverines are relatives to the weasel.
- They are the size of a medium dog, 2-3 feet long and 22-40 pounds.
- They are brown with two stripes down their backs.



FUN FACT:

Wolverines can kill prey as large as a moose!

ARCTIC ADAPTATIONS



- Wolverines have a special back tooth that is sideways. It allows them to tear meat off prey or dead animals that have been frozen!

HUNTING AND PREY

- They usually prey upon small animals like hares and rodents.
- They also rely on carrion (dead animal meat) left over by other predators.
- Wolverines have no natural predators but are sometimes killed by larger animals in confrontations over territory or food.

ARCTIC FOX

- Compared to other foxes, the Arctic fox has:
 - Thicker fur
 - Shorter ears, legs and muzzle
 - Fur covered soles
 - Rounder body with less surface area



FUN FACT: Some Arctic fox dens will be used by many generations and end up like a giant maze with over 100 entrances!

ARCTIC ADAPTATIONS



- The Arctic fox has a thick white winter coat which serves as effective camouflage.
- The fox's summer coat is gray-brown, which provides great camouflage in the Arctic summer!

HUNTING AND PREY



- The Arctic fox mainly hunts lemmings and other small rodents.
- Their diet also consists of some sea birds and occasionally ringed seals!
- When food is scarce, they are known to follow polar bears and eat their scraps (carrion).

SNOWY OWL

- Snowy owls get whiter with age.
- Males can be pure white when fully mature, females are darker.
- They have yellow eyes and black beaks.



FUN FACT: Snowy owls are very protective of their nests and have even attacked wolves that get too close!

ARCTIC ADAPTATIONS



- Unlike other owls they can hunt during the day, which is important because it stays light in the Arctic for months at a time.
- They also have thick plumage and heavily feathered feet.
- They build their nests on the ground.

HUNTING AND PREY



- Their diet consists of mainly lemmings, they also eat other small rodents, birds and arctic hares.
- An adult may eat more than 1600 lemmings a year!
- They swallow their prey whole and regurgitate pellets of bone, teeth and fur!