



Exploring the Arctic

Arctic Facts

Did you know.....

The arctic is around the Earth's north pole. In the summer there are nights when the sun never goes down and there is at least one day a year when it's completely dark. The polar bear is the world's largest meat-eating land animal. The arctic ocean is always covered with ice. The narwhal, also known as the unicorn of the sea, can only be found in the arctic. There are 4 million people living in the arctic. Trees will not grow when the temperature gets too cold. The word Arctic comes from the Greek word "bear".

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Arctic>

Rhyme

Arctic Animals

Polar bears
Look snowy white.
Arctic hares
Hop out of sight.
Sweet baby seals
Change as they grow.
Snowy owls fly
High and low.
How do they all
Stay snug and warm,
In the snow and ice
And freezing storm?

Activity

How Do Polar Bears Stay Warm?

Materials: Large bowl, ice cubes, shortening, 2 plastic baggies, tape.

What you will do: First, fill a bowl with ice and water. Next have your child place their hand briefly in the water. There's no need to linger in the water for safety. Now, for the messy part, fill one plastic bag with shortening. Have your child place one hand inside the blubber/fat filled bag. Seal the top with tape so water can't get into the bag. Make sure to move the fat around so it covers their hand completely. Put bag covered hand in the ice water. What do they notice? Does the water feel less cold or not?

Discuss: Explain to your child that Blubber or fat keeps the polar bear warm. Polar bears use a combination of fur and blubber to keep warm. Thick fur and thick fat keep these warm-blooded mammals warm in up to -50 degree temps! Although their fur is white their skin is black, which helps absorb the sun's rays.