

WINTER

K-1 LESSON PLANS



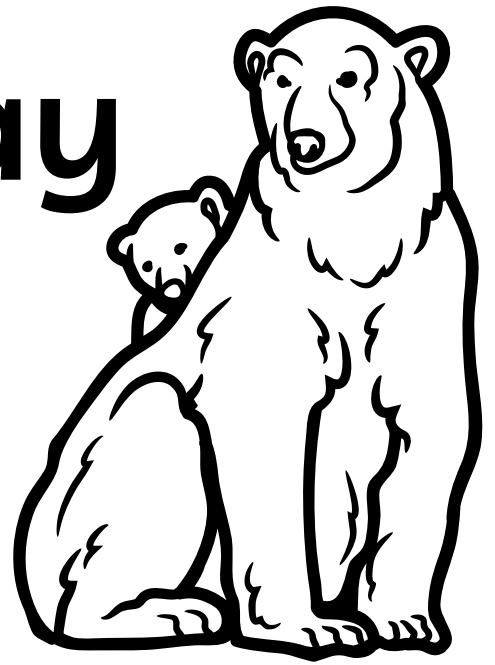
TEACHER GUIDE

Objective: Students will develop empathy for wildlife by identifying how animals adapt to cold weather, recognizing the challenges they face in their environments, and exploring ways humans can help protect these animals.

<p>E- ENGAGE</p>	<p>Begin by introducing the mini-book. Have students preview the cover and illustrations, discussing what they think the book might be about. Read the mini-book together as a class, pausing to talk about why each adaptation is important for survival.</p> <p>Enhance the story with visuals or a short video clip of cold-weather animals in their natural habitats. Ask guiding questions like, "How do you think this animal feels during the winter?" and "What might be hard for it?" to encourage empathy and curiosity.</p> <p>Goal: Spark curiosity and emotional connection by encouraging students to think about an animal's experience.</p>
<p>E- EXPLORE</p>	<p>Provide the students with sorting cards featuring cold-weather animals, habitats, and adaptations. Encourage them to work in small groups or partners to match animals to their traits (e.g., "Polar bears have thick fur to stay warm" or "Reindeer hooves help them walk on snow"). Note, there is more than one right way to sort these cards. It is a good opportunity for teamwork and critical thinking.</p> <p>Goal: Solidify knowledge and connect it to the broader idea of caring for wildlife.</p>
<p>E- EXPLAIN</p>	<p>Discuss the results of the sorting activity, guiding students to see how each adaptation helps animals meet their basic needs. Emphasize the challenges animals face, like finding food or staying warm. Use simple terms to explain the importance of helping animals by protecting their habitats.</p>
<p>E- EXTEND</p>	<p>Students will complete a sorting worksheet where they categorize actions as either Helps Cold-Weather Animals or Does Not Help Cold-Weather Animals. They will cut out pictures and phrases, think about each action, and place them into the correct category independently. After completing the sort, discuss their choices as a class, emphasizing how small changes can make a big difference for wildlife. What can we do to help animals in the wild every day?</p> <p>Goal: Encourage critical thinking and connect their learning to real-world conservation actions.</p>
<p>E- EVALUATE</p>	<p>Wrap up the lesson with a reflective discussion and creative task. After completing the worksheet, have students share their favorite cold-weather animal and one thing they learned about it. Then, ask them to draw a picture and/or write a sentence about one way they can help protect wildlife in cold places.</p> <p>Conclude with a class discussion around the question: "Why should we care about helping animals in cold places?" This allows students to articulate their understanding while fostering empathy and a personal connection to wildlife conservation.</p>

Printing Tip: Run your books through the copier on "booklet" staples and then slice in half. Ready to go!

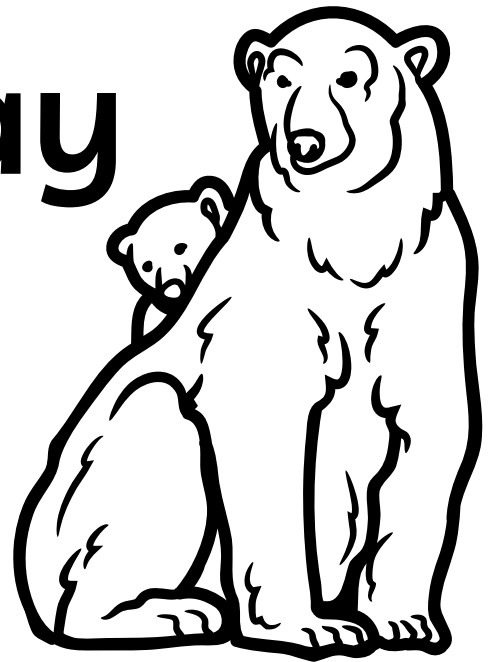
Animals Stay Warm in Winter



Name: _____

COLUMBUS
ZOO
AND AQUARIUM

Animals Stay Warm in Winter



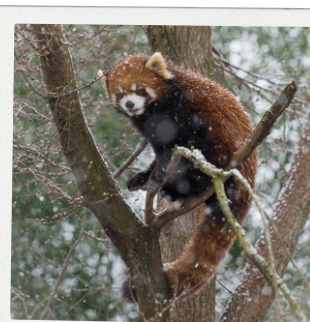
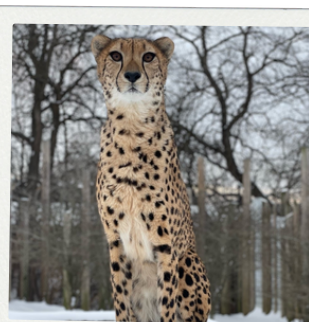
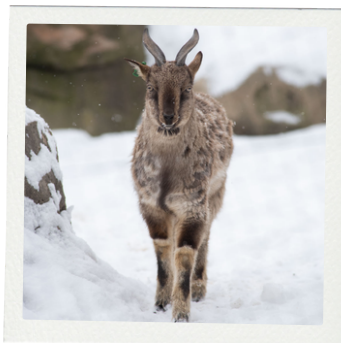
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COLUMBUS
ZOO
AND AQUARIUM

Winter is cold.

Snow is cold.

How do animals stay warm?

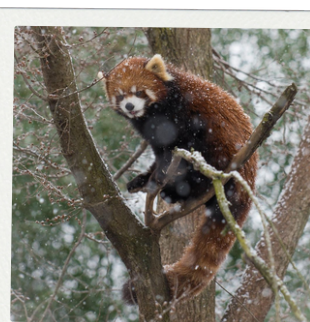
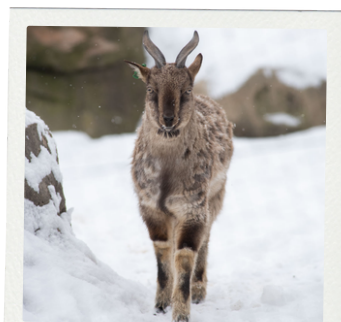


THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

Winter is cold.

Snow is cold.

How do animals stay warm?



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

A polar bear has thick fur.

The fur keeps it warm.

The bear has fat under its skin.

The fat helps, too!



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

A polar bear has thick fur.

The fur keeps it warm.

The bear has fat under its skin.

The fat helps, too!



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

An arctic fox turns white in winter.
White fur hides it in the snow.
The fur keeps it warm.
The fox is ready for the cold!



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

An arctic fox turns white in winter.
White fur hides it in the snow.
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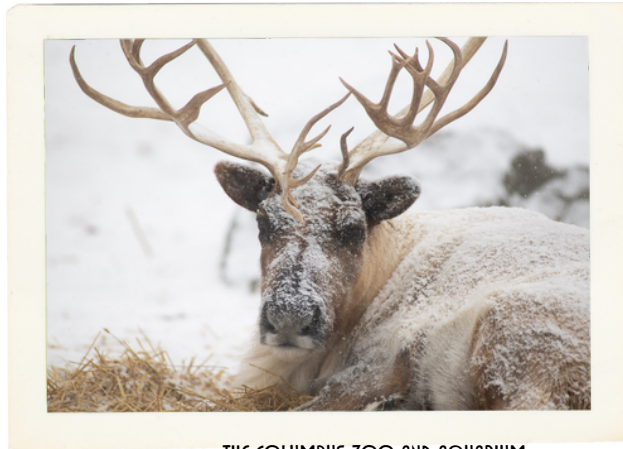
THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

A reindeer has thick fur.

The fur keeps it warm in the snow.

It has big feet.

The feet help it walk on ice.



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

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The fur keeps it warm in the snow.

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THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

A bald eagle has warm feathers.
The feathers keep the eagle dry.
The eagle makes a strong nest.
It stays safe in the cold wind.



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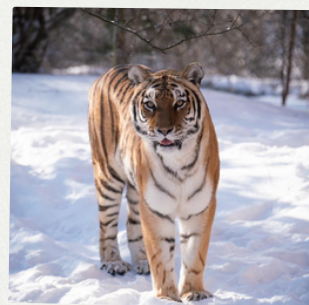
THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

These animals stay warm in winter.
Fur, fat, and feathers help them.
They are ready for snow and cold!

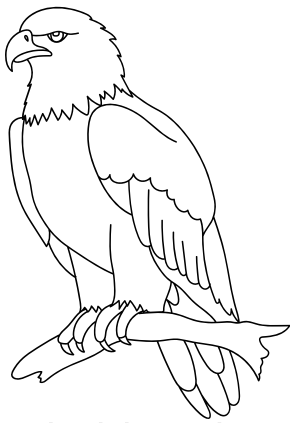


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THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM



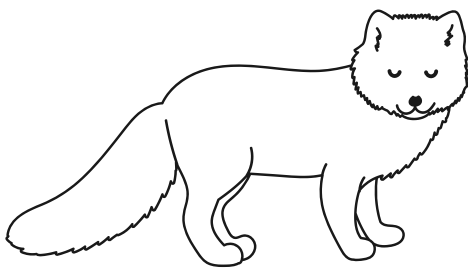
bald eagle



nest



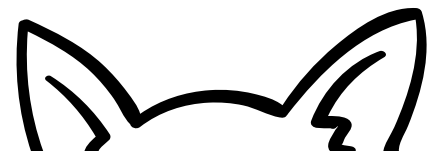
large wings



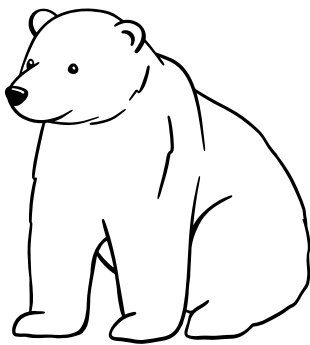
arctic fox



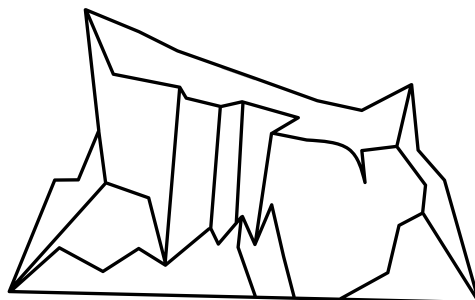
paws or hooves to
walk in snow



small ears



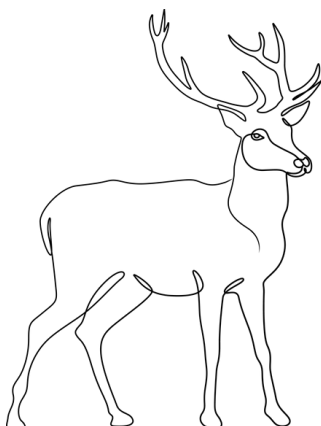
polar bear



arctic
tundra



sharp talons



reindeer



thick fur





migration

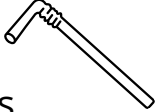








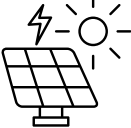
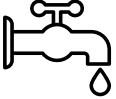

Name: _____

CONSERVATION MATCH

Cut out the pieces. Sort the pieces by if it is helpful for animals, or not helpful for animals.

HELPFUL 	NOT HELPFUL 















plastic straws 	reusable water bottle 	litter 
ride a bike 	planting 	keep lights on 
save water 	respect wildlife 	drive everywhere 
solar panels 	waste water 	cut down trees 

Name: _____

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ANSWER KEY