

Arctic Habitats Fact Sheet



The Arctic Circle is located at the very top of the Earth. It is very cold in the Arctic all year round.

Only a few plants can grow in the Arctic region, mostly grass, moss and lichens. No trees can grow in the frozen ground. In some places in the Arctic it is too cold for anything to grow at all.

There are many land mammals in the Arctic including ox, reindeer, Arctic foxes, weasels, wolves, polar bears and brown bears.

Seals, walrus and whales live here and feed from the plankton and fish in the sea.

Polar bear: Polar bears have white fur to camouflage them in the snow. They have very wide, flat feet to help them walk in the snow.

Arctic wolf: Arctic wolves have thick fur to keep them warm.

Arctic hare: Arctic hares have very strong back legs so they can jump across the snow

Reindeer: Reindeer have thick fur to keep warm, and hollow hooves to scoop through snow to find food.

Walrus: Walrus have flippers so they can swim in the sea or walk on the land.

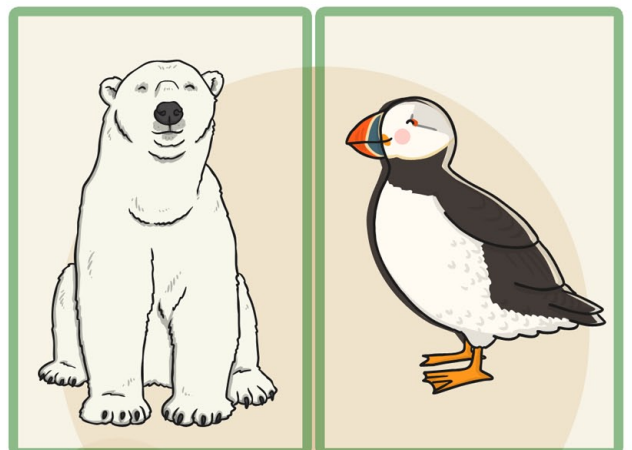
Puffin: Puffins have waterproof feathers and webbed feet so they can swim in the ocean.

Arctic poppy: The yellow flowers of the Arctic poppy turn to face the sun. This means they catch as much of the light as possible.

Ermine: Ermines turn white in the winter so they can hide in the snow. In the summer, their brown fur helps them hide in the undergrowth.

Lichens: Arctic lichen do not need soil, they can grow on rock. Many animals eat lichen.

Seals: Seals have a thick layer of fat under the skin to keep them warm.



Desert Habitats Fact Sheet



Because deserts are so dry, everything that lives in the desert must be able to survive without much water.

Many desert plants have leaves that collect and store water. Most desert animals get their water from eating these plants, or from the bodies of the animals they eat. They must work hard to stay cool so that they do not dehydrate.

Some animals like kangaroo rats and lizards live in burrows which stay cool and damp. These animals stay in their burrows during the hot days and come out at night to feed.

Camels can drink large amounts of water at one time and can survive as long as two weeks without drinking. They have large, spread out feet that help them to walk on the soft sand.

Cactus: These plants have sharp spines that protect them from predators.

Camel: Camels store fat in their humps which they use for energy when they cannot find food. They have thick eyelashes to protect their eyes from sand.

Scorpion: Scorpions have hard bodies that protect them from predators. They have stings in their tails to kill prey.

Kangaroo: Kangaroos have strong legs and tails so they can jump for long distances to find food and water.

Ostrich: Ostriches cannot fly but they have long legs for running.

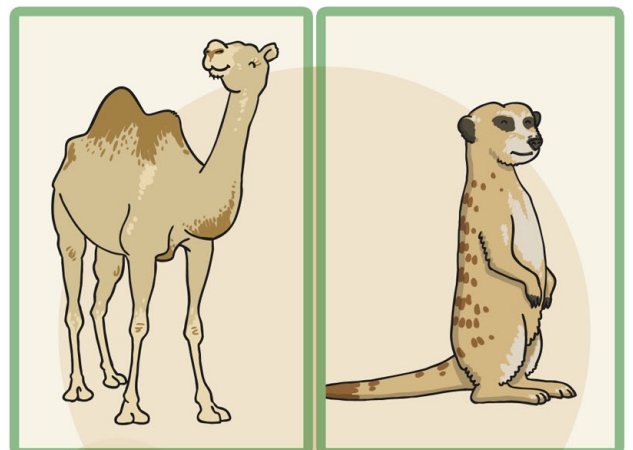
Rattlesnake: Rattlesnakes are the same colour as the sand so they cannot be seen. They have rattles in their tails to scare off predators.

Gecko: If a gecko is attacked its tail will fall off so it can escape safely.

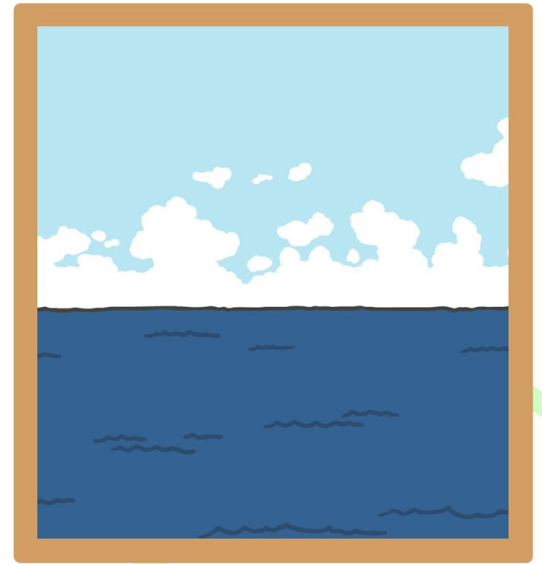
Meerkat: Meerkats have strong claws for digging burrows under the sand. They are able to stand up on their back legs to look out for predators.

Succulent: These plants have thick leaves that store water so the plant can survive a long time without rain.

Vulture: These birds can fly for long distances and survive by eating the bodies of animals that have died.



Ocean Habitats Fact Sheet



Many kinds of plants grow in the ocean, including seaweed, grasses, algae and even flowers.

The oceans contain all kinds of creatures, from giant whales to tiny plankton.

There are many kinds of fish in the ocean, of all shapes and sizes. There are more than 21,000 species of fish in the ocean.

Many mammals live in the sea, such as seals, whales, dolphins and porpoises. These creatures need to return to the surface to breathe air, like humans do.

Some creatures crawl over the bottom of the ocean or burrow beneath it. They include lobsters, crabs, prawns and starfish.

Whale: Whales are the largest living animals on earth, but most whales eat only tiny creatures.

Octopus: Octopuses have 8 tentacles which they use for eating, moving and feeling their way around. They have strong suckers for holding on to things.

Shark: Sharks are very fast and strong. They have sharp teeth for catching and eating fish and other sea creatures.

Fish: There are many kinds of fish in the ocean. They have special organs called gills which mean they can breathe underwater.

Dolphin: Dolphins have fins and a tail for swimming. They cannot breathe underwater so they have a blowhole for breathing air from the ocean surface.

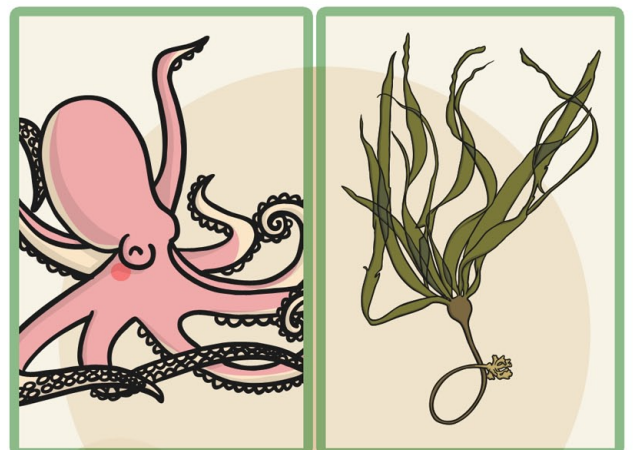
Sea turtle: Sea turtles have flippers like paddles, which makes them very strong swimmers.

Crab: Crabs have strong shells to protect them and sharp claws to catch food.

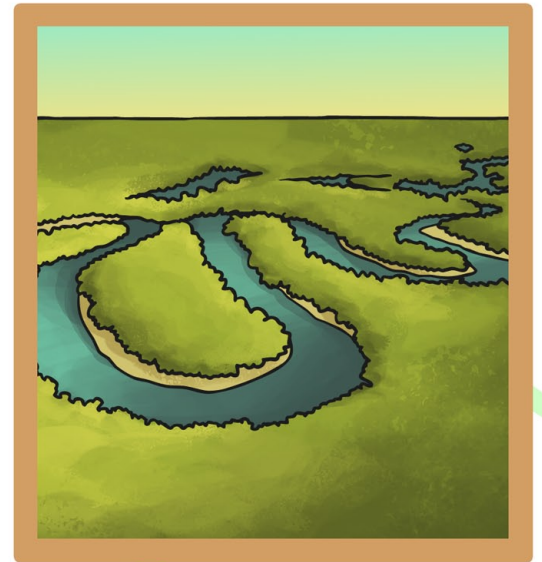
Seaweed: Seaweed is filled with air which helps it to float on the surface.

Seagrass: Lots of types of grass live on the sea floor.

Plankton: Plankton are creatures so tiny you cannot see them without a microscope.



Tropical Habitats Fact Sheet



The rainforest habitat is very hot and very wet. These are good conditions for trees and plants to grow very large.

There are more trees in tropical rainforests than anywhere else in the world. These trees are home to a huge number of animals. Most of them live high in the branches where they can find food.

Many insects, small birds and frogs feed on fruit, seeds and leaves, or other small creatures.

Tree-living lizards, chameleons and snakes feed on smaller animals. Plant-eating mammals, such as flying squirrels, monkeys, and sloths, live high in the forest canopy. Carnivores such as jaguars and leopards hunt in the trees to catch prey.

Tree: The trees in the rainforest grow very tall to reach the sunlight. Many animals live in the trees.

Jaguar: Jaguars are good at climbing trees to catch prey. They have spotted coats so they can hide among the trees.

Tapir: Tapirs have wide, flat feet so they can walk on soft, muddy ground.

Sloth: Sloths move very slowly to save energy. Their strong, curved claws help them hang in the trees.

Tree Frog: Tree frogs have sticky suckers on their toes to help them climb up trees.

Toucan: Toucans have big beaks so they can eat many kinds of fruit.

Iguana: Iguanas have green skin so they can camouflage among the leaves.

Monkey: Monkeys have long arms and legs, and strong tails for swinging and climbing in trees.

Stick Insect: These insects look like sticks so that predators cannot spot them in the trees.

Vines: Vines are climbing plants that grow up and between the trees.

