

Arctic Animal Facts

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Red-Throated Loon

- Migrates to the lakes and tundra of the Arctic in spring.
- Flies south for the winter.
- Runs across the surface of water to begin flying.
- Adults of this species cannot walk on land.
- Chicks hatch 28 days after eggs are laid and head straight for water.
- Food sources include: fish, shrimp, crayfish, and frogs.

Polar Bear

- Eats plants, berries, fish, and any meat.
- Adult males can be up to ten feet (3 meters) tall, weigh over 800 pounds (360 kg), and have paws 12" (30cm) across.
- Their sensitive noses can detect food through thick ice or up to 15 miles (24 km) away.
- These animals will attack and eat beluga whales.
- A thick layer of fat keeps them warm, and helps them float.
- Females dig a den where they live from October until spring. Cubs are born in the den in midwinter.

Arctic Wolf

- Lives in groups called packs.
- Have poor eyesight, but a strong sense of smell and sharp hearing.
- "Talk" to each other with yelps, barks, and whines.
- Avoid other animals.
- Dig holes to bury food.
- Work together when hunting.

Wolverine

- Live alone.
- Have broad, slightly webbed feet to stoop them from sinking in snow.
- Eat berries, nuts, and meat from: foxes, rabbits, snow geese, and musk ox calves.
- Have a deep growl, and a snarl that frightens most animals.
- Females give birth to 3 or 4 babies (called kits) in April.
- Hunt or scavenge for scraps of prey killed by other animals.

Snowy Owl

- Found closer to the North Pole than any other bird.
- Many stay in the Arctic Circle year-round, but they are also found farther south.
- Measure almost two feet (60 cm) from head to tail.
- Hunt gulls, ducks, lemmings, fish and squid.
- Females lay between four and fifteen eggs.
- If food is scarce, females do not lay eggs.

Musk Ox

- Live in herds or big groups.
- When attacked, the adults form a circle around the calves with horns facing out against the enemy.
- Keep warm with a long, shaggy coat.
- Eat willow and sedge (a kind of grass that grows on the tundra)
- Have hooves, with no toes or claws.
- Measure eight feet (2.4 meters) from nose to tail and weigh over 800 pounds (360 kilograms)