

ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

2-4
GRADE

BUNDLE

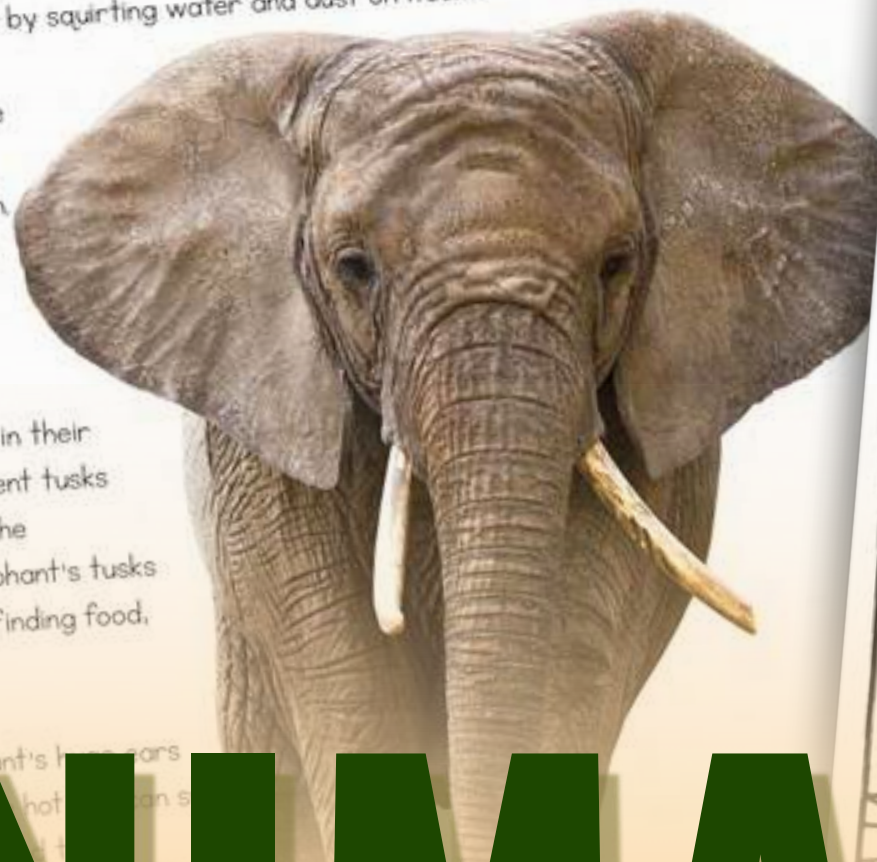
African Elephant

The African elephant is the world's largest land mammal, weighing up to 6.6 tons. The two species of African elephant can be found in the savanna and forests of Africa.

Appearance

The African elephant is known for its long, flexible trunk, long curved tusks, and huge ears. The trunk is about 7 feet long and is used for smelling, breathing, detecting vibrations, sucking up water, and grasping objects. The elephant also uses its trunk to keep cool and prevent sunburn by squirting water and dust on itself.

Both male and female elephants have tusks, which are like your teeth. Babies have tusks when they are born, but the "baby tusks" fall out after a year and permanent ones grow in their places. These permanent tusks will grow throughout the elephant's life. An elephant's tusks are used for digging, finding food, and fighting.



Arctic Fox

The Arctic fox is a small fox that lives in the Arctic and Alpine Tundra. The winters are very cold and the summers are mild. The Arctic fox is agile, which means it moves around easily. This helps it to travel through the rocky landscape of the Arctic.

Appearance

The Arctic fox has adapted to live in an extremely cold environment. Temperatures in the Arctic can reach -58F (-50C). The arctic fox's body has adapted to stay warm in such an extremely cold environment. The body parts that stick out most, such as its legs, ears, and muzzle, are short. Very little skin is exposed to the cold air. It has a big, fluffy tail it can wrap around its body for extra warmth. The thick undercoat under its fur keeps it warm as well.



In summer, the arctic fox's brown to help it blend in with the environment. In winter its fur turns white and blends in with the snow. This is called camouflage. Some arctic foxes have fur that has a blue tint to it.

Diet and Fe

Arctic foxes are omnivores.



ANIMAL ARTICLES

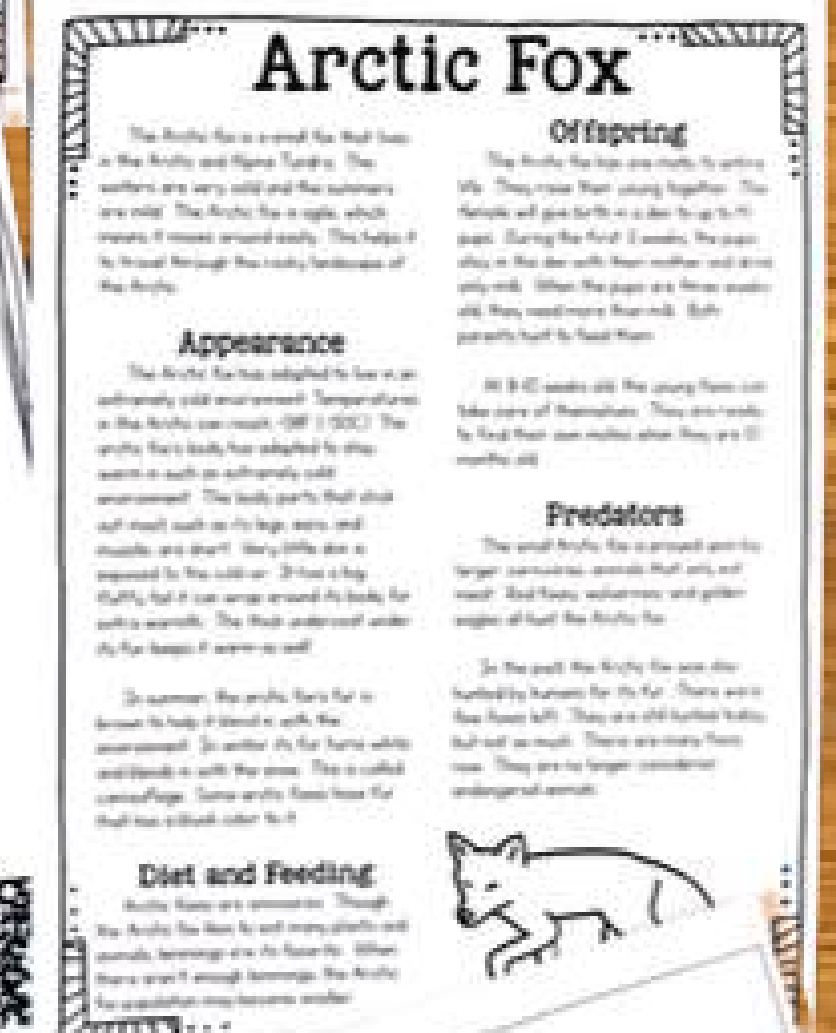


KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE
WHAT'S INSIDE!



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 142+ Nonfiction Animal Articles
- Two Reading Formats
- Vocabulary Cards & Activities
- Online Research Resources
- Graphic Organizers
- Reading Comprehension Activities
- Animal Fact Sorts
- Summary Pages
- Informational Writing Pages
- Google Slides Versions



142 ANIMAL ARTICLES. SO MANY WAYS TO LEARN.

Ecosystems and Habitats

- African Animals
- Rainforest Animals
- Coral Reef Animals
- Antarctic Animals
- Desert Animals
- Alpine Tundra Animals
- Arctic Tundra Animals
- Boreal Forest Animals
- Temperate Forest Animals
- Wetland Animals

Animal Groups and Geographic Regions

- Asian Animals
- Australian Animals
- Life Cycle Animals

Seasonal Animal Studies

- Halloween Animals
- Winter Animals

Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees are large, black primates that live in several different habitats in Africa. They are omnivores and eat a wide variety of foods, such as fruits, seeds, nuts and insects. They occasionally hunt and eat meat.



Appearance

Male chimps can stand as tall as 5 feet 6 inches, and weigh about 150 pounds. Females are usually smaller than males. Their fur is black, but their face, fingers, palms of their hands, and soles of their feet are hairless. These hairless areas can be pink or very dark, and are usually much lighter in young chimps. Chimpanzees do not have tails. They usually walk on all four

limbs, but they can also walk upright for short distances. When walking on all four limbs, they usually walk on the knuckles of their hands.

Social Living

Chimpanzees live in large groups of 15 to 120 individuals. These communities usually contain several families of 3 to 6 chimps. The leader of a community is a male called the alpha male. Within a group, each chimp has a friendship. They live together and teach their young where to go to hunt.



Elephant Shrew



Elephant shrews, or sengis, are small, mouse-like mammals. There are 19 different types or species of elephant shrew. They can be found in a wide range of habitats in Africa, such as deserts and thick forests.

Appearance

The elephant shrew ranges from 4 to 11 inches and weighs between 1 to 2 ounces. Its tail is long and it has long legs and moves like a rabbit. It is one of the smallest mammals in the world, running at speeds of up to 10 miles per hour. Although it is small, it looks like a shrew and looks like a rodent, the elephant shrew is actually a

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An African elephant's huge ears help keep it cool in the hot African sun. The ears are often used to communicate. When an elephant flaps its ears, it is saying that it is either happy or angry. Its large ears help it hear sounds from far away.



EACH ANIMAL ARTICLE INCLUDES...

looks the same
as something
else



blends



agile

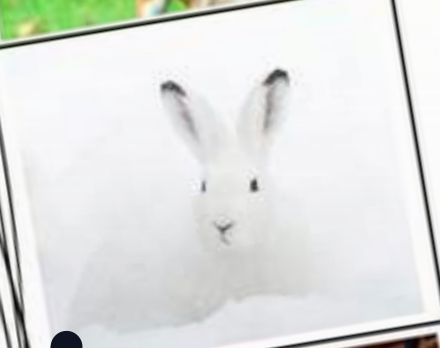
able to move
quickly

VOCABULARY CARDS

EACH ANIMAL ARTICLE INCLUDES...

Arctic Fox Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		
		

Arctic Fox Vocabulary A

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the p

blends	agile	animals that eat other animals
adapt	undercoat	when an animal adjusts to its environment
camouflage	omnivore	an animal that eats plants and animals
prey	carnivore	looks the same as something else

Arctic Fox Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

blends

Definition	Characteristics

Examples	Non-Examples

agile

Definition	Characteristics

Examples	Non-Examples

VOCABULARY
ACTIVITIES

EACH ANIMAL ARTICLE INCLUDES...

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols

- ! when you find something interesting
- ? when you are unsure or confused by something
- * when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

- yellow vocabulary words or key words
- green key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

symbol or color	meaning

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Offspring

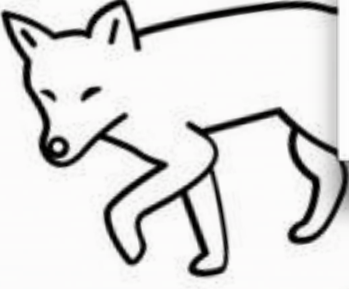
The Arctic fox has one mate its entire life. They raise their young together. The female will give birth in a den to up to 14 pups. During the first 3 weeks, the pups stay in the den with their mother and drink only milk. When the pups are three weeks old, they need more than milk. Both parents hunt to feed them.

Predators

The small Arctic fox is preyed upon by larger carnivores, animals that only eat meat. Red foxes, wolverines, and golden eagles all hunt the Arctic fox.

Diet and Feeding

Arctic foxes are omnivores. Though the Arctic fox likes to eat many plants and animals, lemmings are its favorite. When there aren't enough lemmings, the Arctic fox may become smaller.



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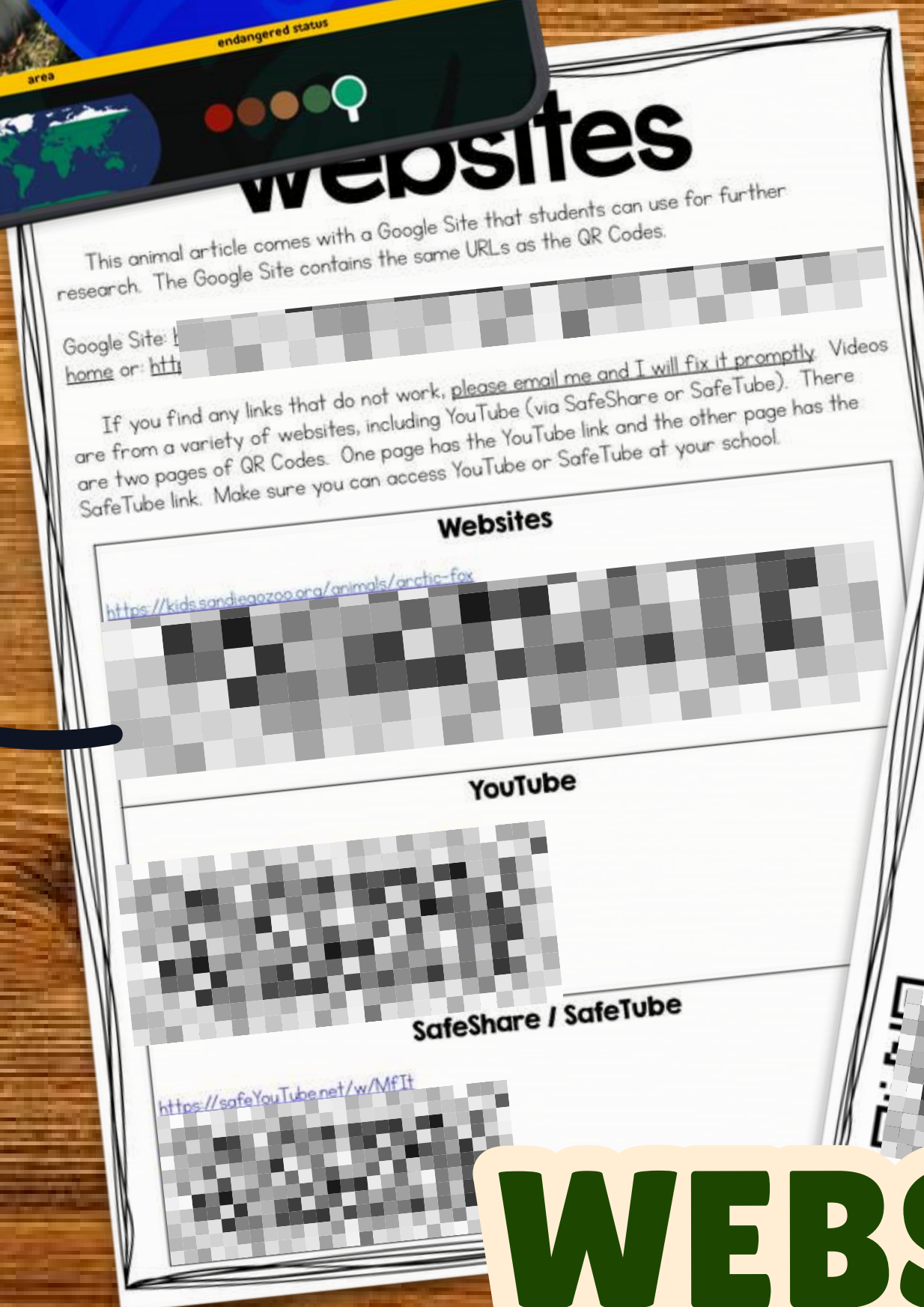
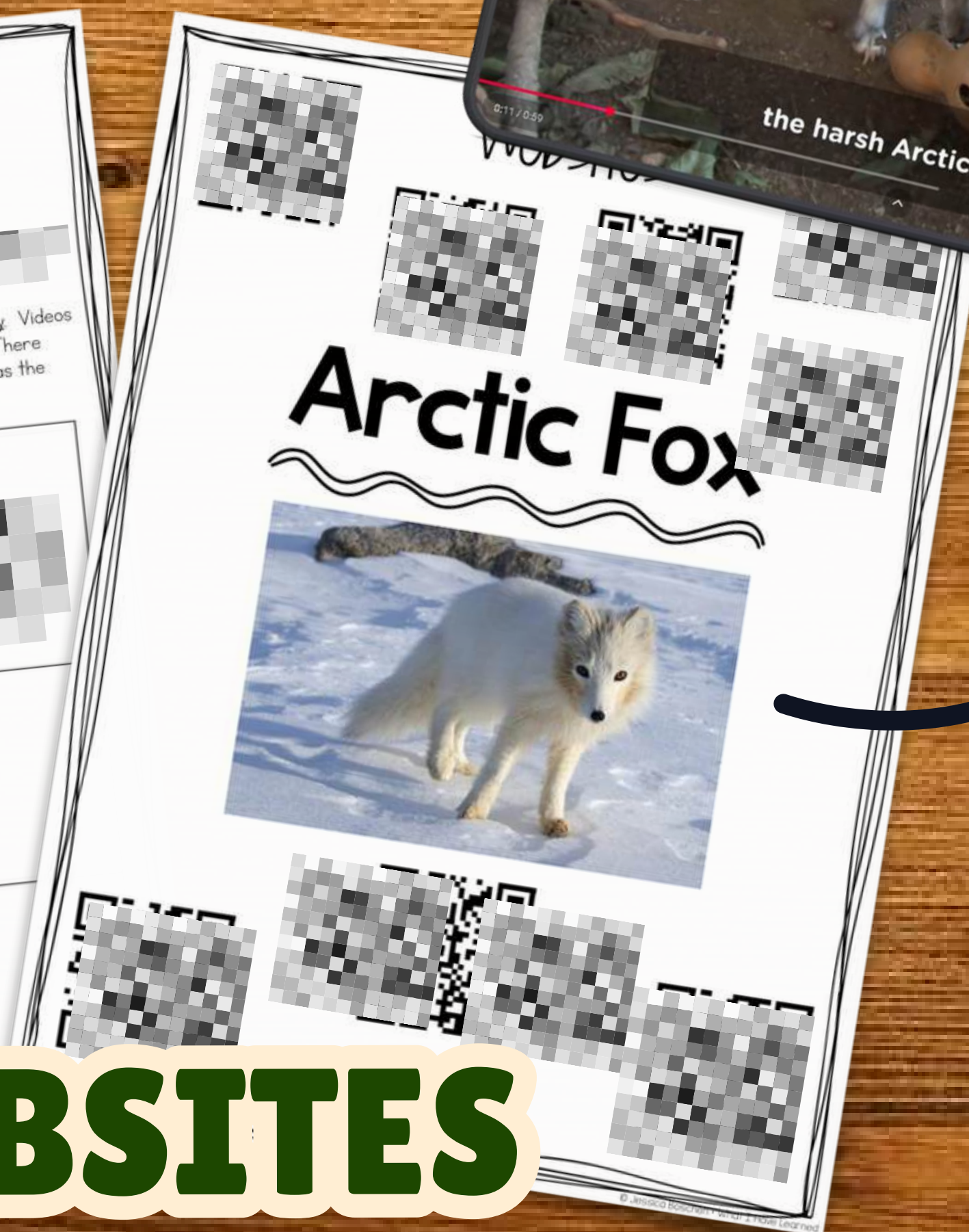
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CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

EACH ANIMAL ARTICLE INCLUDES...



WEBSITES

Caribou Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Three Other Facts

Caribou Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

What makes the caribou unique?

Describe a caribou's habitat:

Write three facts about the caribou:

Fact	Fact	Fact
------	------	------

Describe why and how caribou travel to their summer home:

Other Information:



What I Remember About the Caribou Name: _____

1. What does a caribou look like?

2. Describe a caribou's habitat.

3. What and how does a caribou eat?

4. Describe a caribou's offspring.

Caribou Cloze Read Name: _____

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

antlers	float	dig	hooves
predators	herbivores	lichen	herds

Caribou are related to elk and moose. They are found in the northern regions of northern Asia, Europe, and North America. Caribou live in the arctic that number more than 50,000. They travel in large _____.

Caribou have _____ that keeps them warm in the freezing cold weather. Both male and female caribou have _____ that sheds and grows new antlers every year. Caribou have _____ that help them balance _____ with the seasons. Large _____ helps caribou _____ the water when they _____ their hooves are sharp, which _____ out food from _____ and clinging to rocks and ice. In winter, caribou grow soft, large _____ that help them grip slippery hillsides. Caribou are excellent swimmers. They have _____ that help them _____.

Caribou have a special fur that helps them _____, which means that they eat plants. They spend most of the day eating. Their favorite food is a moss called _____. It contains a substance that helps them stay warm in the cold weather.

Caribou have several _____, such as bears and wolves. Caribou have scent glands in their hooves that they use to warn each other of danger. They will rear up on their hind legs and release a scent to let other caribou know that danger is near.

NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes
looks, has, is

Actions
does, can

Environment
where it lives

Use the above categories as a set or the below categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

Caribou have scent glands in their hooves that they use to warn each other of danger.

Caribou are related to elk and moose.

Calves can walk one hour after they are born and after one day, they are running.

Caribou have special feet that change with the seasons.

Human activities have reduced caribou populations almost everywhere in parts of North America.

They have special fur that keeps them warm.

They often have to travel more than 600 miles from their winter home to reach this area.

Unlike other members of the deer family, both male and female caribou have antlers.

They like to travel in large herds that number more than 50,000.

Lichen contains a substance that helps them stay warm in the cold weather.

They are sometimes called reindeer.

Caribou are herbivores, which means that they eat plants.

Caribou have several predators, such as bears and wolves.

The calves must run to keep up with the migrating herd as it moves back to its winter home.

Caribou have thick, white and brown fur that keeps them warm in the freezing cold weather.

Their food is a moss called lichen.

They live in the arctic regions of northern Asia, Europe, and North America.

Caribou herd their summer home.

They spend most of the day eating.

They will rear up on their hind legs and release a scent to let other caribou know that danger is near.

They are also strong runners and can run 50 miles per hour.

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**FACT
SORT**

SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT

Environment

where it lives

Ladybugs live in meadows, forests, and gardens.

Ladybugs live for about one to two years.

The changes a ladybug goes through is called metamorphosis.

Actions

does, can

Female ladybugs lay eggs on the underside of leaves.

If food is not available, ladybugs will eat each other.

Ladybugs are helpful because they eat plant-eating insects such as aphids.

An adult ladybug may eat up to 75 aphids each day.

Ladybugs larva eat hundreds of aphids during their stage.

Attributes

looks, has, is

Ladybugs have six legs and a body which looks like a tiny dome.

Ladybugs have four wings. The front two wings are wing covers to protect the back two.

Ladybugs are brightly colored to let predators know they are poisonous.

Ladybugs can be red, yellow or orange with small dots.

While this is for a different theme activity, it gives you an idea of how students can do the fact sort.

WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Whole Group & Small Groups:** Practice nonfiction reading skills and vocabulary.
- **Literacy & Science Centers:** Explore articles, vocabulary, and fact sorts.
- **Animal Research Projects:** Gather facts and write animal reports.
- **Independent Work & Early Finishers:** Read, summarize, and compare animals.



YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



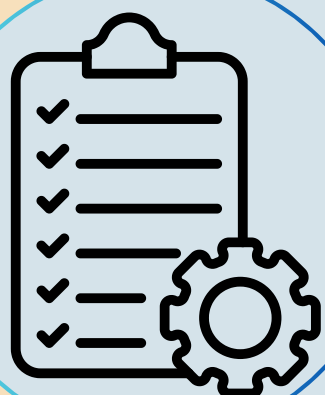
A Wide World of Animals

Give students 142 animal articles with activities for nonfiction reading, research, vocabulary, and report writing.



Consistent, Familiar Formats:

Familiar activity formats help students navigate new animal topics with greater confidence throughout the year.



Supports All Learners With Built-In Scaffolds

Vocabulary cards, fact sorts, and note-taking organizers help struggling readers and writers access complex information.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!



I love all products by Jessica! Her products are very thorough and well-researched! I purchased these to have for my students to use for our end of the year animal research reports.

Karen B.



I love this resource and so do my second graders! Very useful during our informational reading/writing and ecosystem science units.

Koreen W.





My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



What I have **LEARNED**