

# ARCTIC FOX

**Annotating Marks**

As you read the passage, make the following marks on your page.

- ➔ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ➔ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.

**Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the passage *The Arctic Fox*. Use evidence from the passage to answer the following questions:

**Text Evidence Questions:**

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 5 - Summarize**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the organizer from Task 4, write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

**A SUMMARY OF THE ARCTIC FOX**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 4 - Reread & Respond**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the passage *The Arctic Fox*. Complete the chart below, listing four details supporting the statement.

Detail 1	Detail 2
_____	_____

**The Arctic Fox**

The Arctic fox is known by many names. Sometimes, it is called a white fox. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is smaller in size than a wolf, and usually grows to just between eighteen and twenty-seven inches. It has thick fur coat to insulate itself from the cold winter temperatures and to keep itself warm. Its fur changes in coloration from brown during summer to white during winter.

The white fur is one of the most impressive things about the Arctic fox. With thick fur and more body weight during winter, it can survive extremely cold temperatures. The temperature can reach -94° F before the fox even begins to shiver.

Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters, and live in complex homes called dens. These dens include a system of complicated tunnels that may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost half the size of the average house! These have many entrances and exits. Scientists believe these dens may have been around for decades, which means plenty of Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. Talk about keeping the home in the family for years!

Arctic foxes sometimes have a lot of young foxes, known as kits, to take care of at one time. Usually, a single Arctic fox will have five to eight kits. Sometimes, though, they can have as many as twenty-five kits. That's a lot of little mouths to feed! Fortunately, Arctic foxes are also good hunters. They do a lot of listening when they go hunting. Because their hearing is so acute, they can hear exactly where small rodents are under the snow. Then, they pounce through the snow to catch their prey!

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like lemmings, voles, birds, and fish. Sometimes, polar bears and wolves in the area will leave small pieces of their own meals behind. An Arctic fox likes to eat these leftovers that the bigger predators leave behind. Arctic foxes don't just eat meat, though. They eat berries and seaweed, too. This means that Arctic foxes are usually omnivores, or animals that eat both meat and plants.

You won't normally find any Arctic foxes around you. They live in very cold places in northern Europe, northern Asia and North America. If you live in Alaska or Canada, you might see some. Because they easily withstand cold temperatures, some have even been seen near the North Pole!

Their changing fur and ability to survive in extremely cold temperatures make them very interesting animals! What else do you know about \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1 - Read & Annotate**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through *The Arctic Fox* for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

**First Reading Questions:**

1. What is this passage mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. By what other names is an Arctic fox known?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Name at least 6 things that an Arctic fox will eat.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where are Arctic foxes found?

\_\_\_\_\_

What are young foxes called?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2 - VOCABULARY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread *The Arctic Fox* a second time. Find four words which are unfamiliar to you and complete the vocabulary diagram below.

WORD	WORD	WORD	WORD
SYNONYM	SYNONYM	SYNONYM	SYNONYM
ANTONYM	ANTONYM	ANTONYM	ANTONYM
DEFINITION	DEFINITION	DEFINITION	DEFINITION
SENTENCE	SENTENCE	SENTENCE	SENTENCE

**The Arctic Fox** is an interesting creature with many characteristics.

help

## DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

# 2 Different Reading Levels

## High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

**The Arctic Fox**

The Arctic fox is known by many names. Sometimes, it is called a white fox. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is smaller in size than a wolf, and usually grows to just between eighteen and twenty-seven inches. It has thick fur coat to insulate itself from the cold winter temperatures and to keep itself warm. Its fur changes in coloration from brown during summer to white during winter.

**Margin Notes**

The white fur is one of the most impressive things about the Arctic fox. With thick fur and more body weight during winter, it can survive very cold temperatures. The temperature can reach -94° F before the fox even begins to shiver.

Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters. These dens include a system of tunnels that may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost half the size of the average house! These have many entrances and exits. Scientists believe these dens may have been around for decades, which means plenty of Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. Talk about keeping the home in the family for years!

Arctic foxes sometimes have a lot of young foxes, known as kits, to take care of at one time. Usually, a single Arctic fox will have five to eight kits. Sometimes, though, they can have as many as twenty-five kits. That's a lot of little mouths to feed! Luckily, Arctic foxes are also good hunters. They do a lot of listening when they go hunting. Their hearing is very good. They can hear exactly where small rodents are under the snow. They easily pounce through the snow to catch their prey!

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like lemmings, voles, birds, and fish. Sometimes, polar bears and wolves in the area will leave some of their own meals behind. An Arctic fox likes to eat these leftovers that the bigger predators leave behind. Arctic foxes don't just eat meat. They eat berries and seaweed, too. This means that Arctic foxes are usually omnivores. An omnivore is an animal that eats both meat and plants.

You won't normally find any Arctic foxes around you. They live in very cold places in northern Europe, northern Asia, and North America. If you live in Alaska or Canada, you might see some. Some have even been seen near the North Pole!

Their changing fur and ability to survive in extremely cold temperatures make them very interesting animals! What else can you learn about Arctic foxes?

▲

**The Arctic Fox**

The Arctic fox is known by many names. Sometimes, it is called a white fox. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is smaller in size than a wolf. It usually grows to just between eighteen and twenty-seven inches. It has a thick fur coat to keep itself warm in the cold winter temperatures. Its fur changes color from brown during summer to white during winter.

**Margin Notes**

The white fur is one of the most impressive things about the Arctic fox. With this thick fur and more body weight during winter, it can survive very cold temperatures. The temperature can reach -94° F before the fox even begins to shiver.


Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters. They live in big homes called dens. These dens include a system of tunnels that may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost half the size of the average house! These have many entrances and exits. Scientists believe these dens may have been around for many years. This means plenty of Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. Talk about keeping the home in the family for years!

Arctic foxes sometimes have a lot of young foxes, known as kits, to take care of at one time. Usually, a single Arctic fox will have five to eight kits. Sometimes, though, they can have as many as twenty-five kits. That's a lot of little mouths to feed! Luckily, Arctic foxes are also good hunters. They do a lot of listening when they go hunting. Their hearing is very good. They can hear exactly where small rodents are under the snow. They easily pounce through the snow to catch their prey!

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like lemmings, voles, birds, and fish. Sometimes, polar bears and wolves in the area will leave some of their own meals behind. An Arctic fox likes to eat these leftovers that the bigger animals leave behind. Arctic foxes don't just eat meat. They eat berries and seaweed, too. This means that Arctic foxes are usually omnivores. An omnivore is an animal that eats both meat and plants.

You probably won't find any Arctic foxes around you. They live in very cold places in northern Europe, northern Asia, and North America. If you live in Alaska or Canada, you might see some. Some have even been seen near the North Pole!

Their changing fur and ability to survive in cold temperatures make them very interesting animals! What else can you learn about Arctic foxes?





# Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

## CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each passage should take one week to complete.



**1st Reading:** Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



**2nd Reading:** Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



**3rd Reading:** Students reread the passage then responds in writing, citing text evidence. Students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

## Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:



**Circle** powerful words or phrases.



**Underline** words or phrases you do not understand.



**Place a question mark** near something that makes you think of a question.



**Write an exclamation mark** near something that surprises you.



**Draw an arrow** where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.



**Write your important thoughts** in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

## ABOUT THIS PACKET

The first part of this packet includes 5 reading passages and one week's worth of reading activities for each passage. The Close Reading passages included in this packet are each provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All the question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide reading passages on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

### NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Mozart – Musical Genius	■	720
	▲	940
The History of Little League	■	780
	▲	1,000
The Sweet Story of Honey	■	740
	▲	950
George Washington Carver	■	800
	▲	1,030
The United States Constitution	■	750
	▲	930

**Task 1 - Read & Annotate**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through The Arctic Fox for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

**First Reading Questions:**

1. What is this passage mostly about?
2. By what other names is an Arctic fox known?
3. Name at least 6 things that an Arctic fox will eat.
4. Where are Arctic foxes found?
5. What are young foxes called?

**Task 2 - VOCABULARY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Find four words which are unfamiliar to you and write them in the boxes below.

WORD	WORD
SYNONYM	SYNONYM
ANTONYM	ANTONYM
DEFINITION	DEFINITION
SENTENCE	SENTENCE

**Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the passage and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. What details support the main idea?
3. What text describes the foxes' homes?
4. How do Arctic foxes survive in the cold?
5. How do Arctic foxes hunt?

**Task 4 - Reread & Respond**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the passage and respond to the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. What details support the main idea?
3. What text describes the foxes' homes?
4. How do Arctic foxes survive in the cold?
5. How do Arctic foxes hunt?

**Task 5 - Summarize**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea is \_\_\_\_\_ and the details are \_\_\_\_\_.

**THE ARCTIC FOX**

Summary of the passage. The main idea is \_\_\_\_\_ and the details are \_\_\_\_\_.

**NO PREP!**  
**Print and Go!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through The Arctic Fox for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin.

Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

**First Reading Questions:**

1. What is this passage mostly about?  

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2. By what other names is an Arctic fox known?  

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3. Name at least 6 things that an Arctic fox will eat.  

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4. Where are Arctic foxes found?  

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5. What are young foxes called?  

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

and four words which are unfamiliar to you. Write them down below.

**WORD**

WORK

**SYNONYM**

**SYNONYM**

**ANTONYM**

**ANTONYM**

### DEFINITION

### DEFINITION

SENTENC

SENTENC

## Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

over the following questions:

page?

main idea:

the text that describe the foxes' homes.

ow that Arctic foxes are omnivores.

...of hearing to help them hunt?

## Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

summary of the passage. The main idea then use the four details to write four vary by restating the main idea.

## THE ARCTIC FOX

details supporting the statement.

### Detail 2

ctic fox  
eresting  
with many  
istics that  
survive  
d, Arctic  
hate.

#### Detail 4

# NO PREP!

## Print and Go!



# Answer Keys Provided

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

### THE ARCTIC FOX ANSWER KEY

**Text Evidence Questions:** Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
The Arctic fox is an interesting animal that has many characteristics which help it to survive in the cold, Arctic climate.
2. List three details that support the main idea:
  - a) It thick, fur coat changes from brown to white in the winter months
  - b) The Arctic fox can survive very cold temperatures, even at  $-94^{\circ}\text{F}$ .
  - c) Arctic foxes eat leftovers from larger animals' meals.
3. Describe the size of the Arctic fox.  
The Arctic fox grows to between 18 and 27 inches. It is smaller in size than a wolf.
4. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the text that describe the foxes' homes.
  - a) They live in big homes called dens.
  - b) The dens have a system of tunnels that stretch to 1,000 square meters.
5. Cite 2 pieces of evidence that show how Arctic foxes use their sense of hearing to help them survive.
  - a) Foxes eat small animals.
  - b) They eat berries.
6. How do Arctic foxes use their sense of hearing to help them survive?  
Their hearing is very good. They can hear exactly where small animals are under the snow, and they pounce through the snow to catch them.

## Task 1 - Read & Annotate

### THE ARCTIC FOX ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

**First Reading Questions:** Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
This passage is mostly about the Arctic fox and its characteristics that help it survive the cold Arctic climate.
2. By what other names is the Arctic fox known?  
The Arctic fox is also known as a white fox, a polar fox, or a snow fox.
3. List at least 6 things that an Arctic fox will eat.  
The Arctic fox will eat lemmings, voles, birds, fish, leftovers from larger animals, berries, and seaweed.
4. Where are Arctic foxes found?  
They are found in cold places in northern Europe, northern Asia, and North America. They have been seen in Alaska, Canada, and the North Pole.
5. What are young foxes called?  
Young foxes are called kits.