

ANIMALS & INSECTS

CLOSE READING BUNDLE



CLOSE READING DIFFERENTIATED

OCEAN ANIMALS

2 LEVELS FOR EACH PASSAGE!

CREATED BY: SHELLY REES

Hammerhead Sharks
Hammerhead Sharks
Octopus: Smart Escape Artist
Seahorse: Slow Swimmer

2 LEVELS FOR EACH PASSAGE!

AMAZING INSECTS

CREATED BY: SHELLY REES

Cockroaches: Ancient Survivors
Cockroaches: Ancient Survivors
Grasshopper
Termites: Small
Honeybees: Industrious Workers

CLOSE READING DIFFERENTIATED

ARCTIC ANIMALS

2 LEVELS FOR EACH PASSAGE!

CREATED BY: SHELLY REES

Polar Bears
Polar Bears
Beluga Whales
Caribou
Puffins
The Arctic Fox

3 COMPLETE UNITS

5 Informational Passages in EACH Unit

The Arctic Fox

Margin Notes

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 can you learn about Arctic foxes?



Puffins

Margin Notes

Puffins are fascinating Arctic animals. Since they are black and white and have a bright orange beak, they resemble penguins. Because of their beak, they are nicknamed the "sea parrot" or "down of the sea". Their beak only stays bright during the summer months, so that they can attract a mate. The bigger and brighter a beak is, the more attractive they are to other puffins. During the winter months, the beak turns to gray. An average puffin weighs about the same as a can of soda. That is about the height of a milk jug!

Puffins: the tufted puffin, the horned puffin, and the common puffin are the most common. There are anywhere from 10 to 100 million puffins in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, depending on the season.

They have special types of feathers that enable them to their webbed feet help them steer in the direction they legs to help them swim more quickly and dive to further depths of 200 feet deep! Puffins can also stay under water for up to 20 minutes without oxygen beneath the water.

Swimmers, puffins can also fly really quickly. They can beat their wings 400 times a minute! Because of this, the wings become a blur, and the puffin just seems to disappear.

Their favorites are sand eels, herring, hake and mackerel. They are also good at catching fish quickly. On average, a puffin can catch 10 fish in their beaks at a time. In fact, one puffin was seen to catch 10 fish in its beak at once!

One very unique characteristic. During the winter months, puffins go into a state of hibernation. This means that they are normally out on the sea. Every summer they go back to land to lay their eggs. Puffins will lay one egg per year with grass, seaweed, and other plants. They use these to protect the egg and to protect the chick. The puffin then takes turns with its parent to protect the egg and get food for the chick. Both parents are very dedicated to their young.

Puffins are very interesting animals. Their appearance, quick flight, and dedication to their young are fascinating.



Polar Bears

Margin Notes

Many people name the polar bear as their favorite bear. That's for a good reason. These animals are fascinating! Did you know that polar bears are the largest bears on earth? A male polar bear can range anywhere from 770 pounds to 1,500 pounds, which is about the size of five or six grown men combined. It can also grow to be almost ten feet long. An adult female bear is about half the size of a male bear, but can still weigh up to 550 pounds and be up to 7 feet long. The largest known polar bear was 2,209 pounds!

Polar bears live mainly in the Arctic Circle, which has very long, cold winters and no summer. Ice is found there year round. In the winter, temperatures can drop to -40° F and typically do not get any warmer than 32° F. Because of the cold temperatures, they need special body characteristics to help them survive. Polar bears have built-in insulation, which acts as their natural coat. This insulation includes up to 4 inches of fat, their hide and fur. This helps them stay warm when temperatures are above 50° F, they overheat!

Very winter coat, polar bears also have large feet to help them to walk on the ice without sinking. They are also able to hold their breath for a long time. A polar bear can swim up to three minutes underwater before they need to come up for air. A polar bear was able to swim for nine days in the freezing Bering Sea to reach ice far from land. That is like swimming across the ocean!

Polar bears spend a lot of time around ice because that is where their favorite things to eat are seals, including ringed and harp seals. The polar bear has 42 teeth and can sprint up to 25 mph. They are very easy for them to catch the seals. They also have a very keen sense of smell, which allows them to sniff out their prey, wait for them, and pounce when the seal is right! After feeding, they wash themselves with water or melt the ice around them. During the summer months, the ice melts somewhat, which makes it harder for polar bears to go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go into a state of hibernation during the summer and fall without needing anything to eat. They can survive on fat reserves for up to two years.



Caribou

Margin Notes

You may better know caribou by their other name, reindeer. Although they cannot fly, they do have brown fur and antlers, and are very large. Caribou can be up to nine feet long and weigh up to about 600 pounds. The largest male ever weighed was 660 pounds! Males are larger than females. They can sometimes get up to twice the size of females.

Caribou live in parts of Russia and the upper parts of the Canadian Rockies. Because they live in such cold climates, they have two layers of fur to help keep them insulated. Their fur is woolly, and they have a longer-haired overcoat. In the summer and fall, they turn gray in the winter to camouflage themselves from their predators.

The antlers of the caribou are their antlers. The larger the antlers, the larger the caribou. After mating season is over, the antlers will fall off and they will grow a new pair for the next year. The antlers of a nine-year-old caribou can be up to 30 inches wide and 53 inches long. A nine-year-old caribou can also have antlers, although they are smaller. Antlers will not grow antlers.

Caribou are herbivores! They eat leaves and grasses, but they also eat moss and lichen. They live in extremely cold places. This way, even when there are not many plants, they still have something to eat. They are also known to be very smart when it comes to finding food.

Caribou migrate to find new food sources. Some types of caribou migrate about 12-25 miles a year. That's fast! They are so quick that when a baby caribou is born, it can already outrun an Olympic sprinter! Caribou can run as fast as 6.2 miles an hour. During the spring, caribou migrate and form larger groups of 50,000 to 500,000.



Beluga Whales

Margin Notes

The beluga whale, also known as the sea canary or mermaid, is an arctic whale with many exciting characteristics. The beluga whale is a medium-sized whale, somewhere between the size of a dolphin and a true whale. The male can grow up to 18 feet. That is about the size of three grown men stacked on top of each other. It can also grow up to 3,500 pounds! Most of its weight is blubber, which is a layer of fat that keeps the whale warm.

Once beluga whales hit a mature age, they are completely white. This helps them to camouflage themselves in the arctic areas and protect themselves from predators. Beluga whales are also very smart. Their heads are round and curved and they are very intelligent. They use these flippers to help them swim through the water. They have about 40 teeth that they use to catch their prey.

Beluga whales live in arctic areas. The most popular locations are the Arctic Circle, Russia and Greenland. Beluga whales spend the summer when the ice melts, they migrate and live in the open ocean.

Beluga whales are typically found in groups, called pods, of about 10 to 20 whales. They migrate, they can gather in pods of hundreds or even thousands. They also love to play together in the ocean.

Beluga whales are also known for their fish, including arctic cod and pacific salmon, but they also eat octopuses. Beluga whales also have predators that include killer whales and polar bears, as well as humpback whales. There are still 150,000 worldwide!

Beluga whales are swimmers, but they are good divers. They typically dive for about an hour, but they can dive up to 2,300 feet below the surface. They decrease their heart rates when they dive, so that they can last up to 18 minutes under water!

Beluga whales are also known for their clicks. These clicks are a series of rapid clicks. These clicks can travel up to a mile a second! This allows the whale to communicate with other whales. This is important for the whales to be able to swim and communicate with other whales.



Each passage is provided in 2 differentiated levels!

2 Different Levels for Each Passage

Lexile Level
is given
for each
passage.

Polar Bears

Many people name the polar bear as their favorite bear. That's for a good reason. These animals are fascinating! Did you know that polar bears are the largest bears on earth? A male polar bear weighs anywhere from 1,500 to 2,500 pounds. This is about the size of five or six grown men together. They can grow to be almost ten feet long. An adult female bear is about half the size of a male bear. She can still weigh up to 550 pounds and be up to 7 feet long. The largest known polar bear was found in 1960. It weighed 2,209 pounds!

Polar bears mostly live in the Arctic Circle. This area has very long and short, cool summers. Ice is found there year round. In the winter, temperatures can get as low as -58° F. It does not usually get any warmer than 32° F. Polar bears have special ways to help them survive in the cold. They have built-in insulation, which acts as their winter coat. This insulation is 4 inches of fat, hide, and fur. This winter coat works so well that when temperatures are above 50° F, they overheat!

Polar bears also have large feet to help them to balance. Their foot coverings on their paws help them walk on the ice without slipping. They are also very good swimmers. They can swim up to 6 mph, which is as fast as they can walk! They are able to hold their breath for a long time. They can swim up to three minutes underwater before they need to come up for air. One bear was able to swim for nine days in the freezing Bering Sea for 400 miles in order to reach ice far from land. That is like swimming across the entire state of Colorado!

Polar bears spend a lot of time around ice because that is where their favorite foods live. Their favorite things to eat are seals. This includes ringed and bearded seals. Luckily, the polar bear has 42 teeth and can sprint up to 25 mph, which makes it very easy for them to catch the seals. They also have a very good sense of smell. This allows them to sniff out their prey, wait for the right moment is right! After feeding, they wash themselves with water or snow to keep their coats white against the snow for the next time they go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go several months during the summer months, the ice melts a little, which makes it hard for them to go out and hunt. During the summer months, the ice thaws somewhat, which makes it difficult for polar bears to go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go several months during the summer and fall without needing anything to eat. They have so much fat on their bodies that they can simply live off of what they already have stored! Even while fasting, polar bears never hibernate.

With their white fur, insulated bodies, and ability to swim in water and exist in cold temperatures, the polar bear is an interesting and exciting animal!



Lexile 900

Polar Bears


Many people name the polar bear as their favorite bear. That's for a good reason. These animals are fascinating! Did you know that polar bears are the largest bears on earth? A male polar bear can range anywhere from 770 pounds to 1,500 pounds, which is about the size of five or six grown men combined. It can also grow to be almost ten feet long. An adult female bear is about half the size of a male bear, but can still weigh up to 550 pounds and be up to 7 feet long. The largest known polar bear was found in 1960 and weighed 2,209 pounds!

Polar bears live mainly in the Arctic Circle, which has very long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Ice is found there year round. In the winter, temperatures can get as low as -58° F and typically do not get any warmer than 32° F. Because polar bears live in freezing temperatures, they need special body characteristics to help them survive in the cold. Polar bears have built-in insulation, which acts as their winter coat. This insulation includes up to 4 inches of fat, their hide and fur. This winter coat works so well that when temperatures are above 50° F, they overheat!

Along with a heavy winter coat, polar bears also have large feet to help them to balance, and bumpy coverings on their paws to help them walk on the ice without slipping. They are also extremely good swimmers and can swim up to 6 mph, about twice as fast as they can walk! They are also able to hold their breath for a long period of time. They can swim up to three minutes underwater before they need to come up for air. One bear was able to swim for nine days in the freezing Bering Sea for 400 miles in order to reach ice far from land. That is like swimming across the entire state of Colorado!

Polar bears tend to spend a lot of time around ice because that is where their favorite foods live. Their favorite things to eat are seals, including ringed and bearded seals. Luckily, the polar bear has 42 teeth and can sprint up to 25 mph, which makes it extremely easy for them to catch the seals. They also have a very good sense of smell, which allows them to sniff out their prey, wait for them, and strike when the moment is right! After feeding, they wash themselves with water or snow to keep their coats white and camouflaged against the white snow for the next time they go to hunt. During the summer months, the ice thaws somewhat, which makes it difficult for polar bears to go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go several months during the summer and fall without needing anything to eat. They have so much fat on their bodies that they can simply live off of what they already have stored! Even while fasting, polar bears never hibernate.

With their white fur, insulated bodies, and ability to swim in water and exist in freezing temperatures, the polar bear is an extremely interesting and exciting animal!



Lexile 1,150

Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

CLOSE READ STEPS

The following steps are a suggested sequence in which the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 sessions for each passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each task. Each task is designed to be completed in one day. Tasks per passage, each passage should take one week.

1st Reading: Student reads the passage and they use their annotation marks to identify questions they have, and parts of the passage with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate** includes some basic recall questions.

2nd Reading: Teacher (or partner) reads the passage a second time while students listen and follow. Complete **Task 2: Vocabulary** to gain a better understanding of unfamiliar words, leading to a deeper connection with the text.

3rd Reading: Students reread the passage and respond in writing, citing text. Have students use and cite text evidence. Additionally, students will complete **Task 3: Respond** and **Task 5: Summarize**. This will help students to use the text to construct and supported summary.

Annotating Mark

As you read through the passage, make the following marks:

- Circle powerful words
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark next to something that makes you think. Think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark next to something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow pointing to a personal connection, words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margin.

Lexile Levels Conversion Chart

Each passage in this Close Reading Packet is provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may differentiate your instruction and student practice more easily. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All 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 Lexile Level is written on the bottom left corner of each passage.

Grade Level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell
1	Up to 300	E
1	Up to 300	F
1	Up to 300	G
1	80-450	H
1-2	80-450	I
2	80-450	J
2	501-550	K
2	551-650	L
3	520-730	M
3	570-770	N
4	620-820	O
4	740-900	P
5	790-940	Q
5	830-1010	R
5	880-1010	S
5	920-1010	T
6	925-1070	U-W
7	970-1120	W+
		W+

5 Days of Close Reading Activities for Each Passage

Task 1 - Read & Annotate
Name: _____ Day: _____
As you read through *Polar Bears* 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. Where do polar bears mainly live?

3. What do polar bears like to eat?

4. Describe the polar bear's built-in insulation.

Task 2 - VOCABULARY
Name: _____ Day: _____
Read *Polar Bears* a second time. Find 4 words which are unfamiliar to you and complete the vocabulary diagram below.

WORD: _____ ILLUSTRATION: _____
DEFINITION: _____

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper
Name: _____ Day: _____
Reread the passage *Polar Bears*. Use the passage to answer the following questions:

Questions:

the passage?

support the main idea:

of male and female polar bears.

from the text that show how polar bears' bodies and Arctic climate.

is able to easily hunt its prey.

Read & Respond
Name: _____ Day: _____
Details supporting the main idea.

Detail 1

Detail 2

Detail 3

Detail 4

Summarize
Name: _____ Day: _____
Summary of the passage. The main idea is _____
Use the 4 details to write 4 sentences stating the main idea.

POLAR BEARS

End of Unit Compare/Contrast Writing Activities

The image displays four overlapping writing templates designed for end-of-unit compare/contrast activities. The templates are as follows:

- Top Left Template:** A general compare/contrast organizer. It features two columns for writing. The left column is labeled "Similarities" and the right column is labeled "Differences". Above the columns, there is a box for the title and a set of instructions: "Compare and contrast 2 passages. Write the title of each passage at the top of the 2 lined columns. On the lines, list ways that the 2 topics are different (contrast). In the 'Similarities' box, list ways they are the same (compare)."
- Top Right Template:** A "Compare & Contrast Paragraph Organizer". It includes a "Topic sentence" box at the top, followed by several lines for writing. It also has a "Conclusion sentence" box at the bottom.
- Middle Template:** A "Compare & Contrast Writing" sheet. It has a title box, a "Name" field, and a "Date" field. Below these are two boxes labeled "Title of Passage" for each passage being compared. The main body of the sheet is a large area for writing.
- Bottom Template:** A "MY FAVORITE ARCTIC ANIMAL" worksheet. It is designed for a specific topic. It includes a "Name" field, a "Date" field, and several sections for writing: "MY FAVORITE ARCTIC ANIMAL IS:", "INTERESTING FACTS:", "WHY IT IS MY FAVORITE ANIMAL:", "HOW IT SURVIVES THE COLD ARCTIC WEATHER:", "AN ILLUSTRATION", and "ANOTHER INTERESTING FACT:". There is also a large circular area on the left side for drawing.

Answer Keys Provided

Task 1 - Read & Annotate

POLAR BEARS

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 polar bear and its characteristics that help it survive in the Arctic region.
2. Where do polar bears mainly live?
Polar bears mainly live in the Arctic Circle.
3. What do polar bears like to eat?
Their favorite meal is seals, usually the ringed and bearded seals.
4. Describe the polar bear's built-in insulation.
Polar bears have built-in insulation, which acts as their winter coat. This includes up to 4 inches of fat, their hide and fur.

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

POLAR BEARS

ANSWER KEY

Text Evidence Questions:

Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
Polar bears are interesting animals that have characteristics which help them to survive in the Arctic climate.
2. List three details that support the main idea:
 - a) They have an insulation of up to 4 inches of fat, hide, and fur.
 - b) They can go several months in the fall and summer without eating.
 - c) They are extremely good swimmers and can swim up to 6 mph.
3. Describe the normal size of male and female polar bears.
Males can range from 770-1,500 pounds. Females can weigh up to 550 pounds and be up to 7 feet long.
4. Cite 3 pieces of evidence from the text that show how polar bears' bodies help them survive in the cold, Arctic climate.
 - a) They have large feet to help them to balance.
 - b) They have bumpy coverings on their paws to help them walk on ice without slipping.
 - c) Their coat is white to keep them camouflaged against the snow.
5. Name 2 ways the polar bear is able to more easily hunt its prey.
 - a) They can sprint up to 25 mph.
 - b) They have a good sense of smell, which helps them to sniff out prey.