

5 Informational Passages in

Beluga Whales

Margin Notes

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

es. Their heads are round and curved and they ng though the water. They have about 40 teeth that

ctic areas. The most popular locations are the Russia and Greenland. Beluga whales spend the summer when the ice mets, they migrate and

migrate, they can gather in pods of hundreds or light! They also love to play together in the ocean

ctopuses. Beluga whales also have predators that fler whales and polar bears, as well as Inuit and y are hunted, there are still 150,000 worldwide!

ir, but they can dive up to 2,300 feet below the ry decrease their heart rates when they dive, so th ry can last up to 18 minutes under water

ga whales produce a series of rapid clicks. These m that can travel up to a mile a second! This ze and shapes of the obsects around them



Caribou

fly, they do have brown fur and aritiers, 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 680 pounds! Males are larger than females. They can sometimes get up to twice the

the Canadian Rockies. Because they live in such cold is circulation that helps their bodies maintain a

have two layers of fur to help keep them insulated.

wooly, and they have a longer-haired overcoat.

mer and it turns gray in the winter to camouflage

he caribou are their artiers. The larger the artiers

eason, the larger males use their antiers to fight other for the female caribou. After mating season is over,

intiers and they will grow a new pair for the next arger than the year before! The antiers can grow to

can be up to 30 inches wide and 53 inches long.

a nine-year-old child! Imagine having that on top of aribou also have antiens, although they are smalle

ores! They eat leaves and grasses, but they tooks like moss and grows on rocks and trees,

rate to find new food sources. Some types of

is fast as 6.2 miles an hour. During the spring te and form larger groups of 50,000 to 500,000

a year! They typically travel about 12-35 miles a day

our. That's fast! They are so quick that when a baby already outrun an Olympic sprinter! Caribou can

ed them for the calcium!

sely cold places. This way, even when there are no If have something to eat. They are also known to

Polar Bears

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 most ten feet long. An adult female bear is about half the size of a male bear, but

50 pounds and be up to 7 feet long. The largest known polar 60 and weighed 2,209 pounds!

nly in the Artic Circle, which has very long, cold winters and ce is found there year round. In the winter, temperatures can d typically do not get any warmer than 32" F. Because polar imperatures, they need special body characteristics to help Ad. Polar bears have built-in insulation, which acts as their lation includes up to 4 inches of fat, their hide and fur. This. ell that when temperatures are above 50° F, they overheat!

inter coat, polar bears also have large feet to help them to verings on their paws to help them walk on the ice without extremely good swimmers and can swim up to 6 mph, about in walk! They are also able to hold their breath for a long in swim up to three minutes underwater before they need to ear was able to swim for nine days in the freezing Bering Sea reach ice far from land. That is like swimming across the

end a lot of time around ice because that is where their ir favorite things to eat are seals, including ringed and the polar bear has 42 teeth and can sprint up to 25 mph, sly easy for them to catch the seals. They also have a very hich allows them to sniff out their prey, wait for them, and nt is right! After feeding, they wash themselves with water or s white and camouflaged against the white snow for the next uring the summer months, the ice thaws somewhat, which ar bears to go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go the summer and fall without needing anything to eat. They



Puffins

a bright orange beak, they resemble penguins. Because of their beak, they are nicknamed the "sea pamot" or "clown of the sea". Their beak only stays bright during the summer months, so that they can attract a mate. The bigger and righter a beak is, the more attractive they are to other puffins. During the winter gray. An average puffin weighs about the same as a can

tall. That is about the height of a milk jug! iffins: the tufled puffin, the homed puffin, and the flin is the most common. There are anywhere from

the artic and sub-arctic, depending on the season or months at sea in the frigid water and are ey have special types of feathers that enable them to

nd beat their wings 400 times a minutel Because skly, the wings become a blur, and the puffin just

ummer they go eet up with the of 5, puffins beg ill lay one egg per nd to protect the in then take turns one parent protect et food for the both puffins will

fascinating



The Arctic Fox

x. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is taller in size than a wolf, and usually grows to just between eighteen and enty-seven inches. It has thick fur coat to insulate itself from the cold ter temperatures and to keep itself warm. Its fur changes in coloration om 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

Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters, and live in complex omes called dens. These dens include a system of complicated tunnels hat may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost half the size of the everage house! These have many entrances and exits. Scientists believe these dens may have been around for decades, which means clienty of Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. Talk about keeping the ome 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 unce through the snow to catch their preyl

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like lemmings, votes, birds, and ish. 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 nnivores, or animals that eat both meat and plants.

You won't normally find any Arctic foxes around you. They live in very old places in northern Europe, northern Asia and North America. If you live n Alaska or Canada, you might

withstand cold temperatures, some have even been seen

Their changing fur and abilit o survive in extremely cold teresting animals! What else can you learn about

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Each passage is provided in 2 differentiated levels!

to help them swim more quickly and dive to further feet deep! Puffins can also stay under water for up at 20 to 30 seconds without oxygen beneath the

and swimming skills to gatch many fish quickly. On 0 fish in their beaks at a time. In fact, one puffin was

s a very unique characteristic. During the winter is. This means that they are normally out on the sea

2 Different Levels for Each Passage

is given for each passage.

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 bear as the largest bears on earth? A male polar bear weighs anywhere from

largest bears on earth? A male polar bear weighs anywhere from 1,500 pounds. This is about the size of five or six grown men toge grow to be almost ten feet long. An adult female bear is about half male bear. She can still weigh up to 550 pounds and be up to 7 fe largest known polar bear was found in 1960. It weighed 2,209 pou

Polar bears mostly live in the Artic Clicle. This area has very leand short, cool summers. Ice is found there year round. In the wir temperatures can get as low as -58° F. It does not usually get any 32° F. Polar bears have special ways to help them survive in the obers have built-in insulation, which acts as their writer coat. This 4 inches of fat, hide, and fut. This writer coat works so well that w temperatures are above 50° F, they overheat!

Polar bears also have large feet to help them to balance. Ther coverings on their pases to help them walk on the ice without slipp also very good swimmers. They can easim up to 6 mgh, which is a fast as they can walk! They are able to hold their breath for a long bears can swim up to three minutes underwater before they need air. One bear was able to saim for nine days in the freezing Berlin for 400 miles in order to reach ice far from land. That is like swimentre state of Colorado!

Polar bears spend a lot of time around los because that is who foods live. Their fevorite things to eat are seats. This includes ring seats. Luckly, the polar bear has 42 teeth and can sprint up to 25 mailes it very easy for them to catch the seats. They also have a sense of smell. This allows them to said out their prey, wast, and s moment is right! After feeding, they wash themselves with water cheeps their coats white against the snow for the next time they go the summer months, the ice mells a little, which mailes it hand for go out and hunt. Because of this, they can go several months during fall without needing arything to eat. They have so much fail or much fail or the summer months.

that they are able live off of what they already have stored! Even white going without food, polar bears never hibemate.

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

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Many people name the polar bear as their favorite bear. That's for a good reason. These animals are fascinating flot 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 1900 and weighed 2,209 pounds!

Pelar bears live mainly in the Artic 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 sunvive in the cold. Polar bears have built-in insulation, which acts as their winter cost. This insulation includes up to 4 inches of fat, their hide and fur. This winter cost works so well that when temperatures are above 50° F, they overhead!

Along with a heavy winter cost, polar bears also have large feet to help them to balance, and burney coverings on their paws to help them walk on the ice without stipping. 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 undervaster 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 Colorada!

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 beaded seals. Luckly, the polar bear has 42 beth and can spirit up to 25 mgh, which makes it extremely easy for them to callot the seals. They also have a very good sense of smell, which allows them to snift out their prey, wall 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 thave 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.

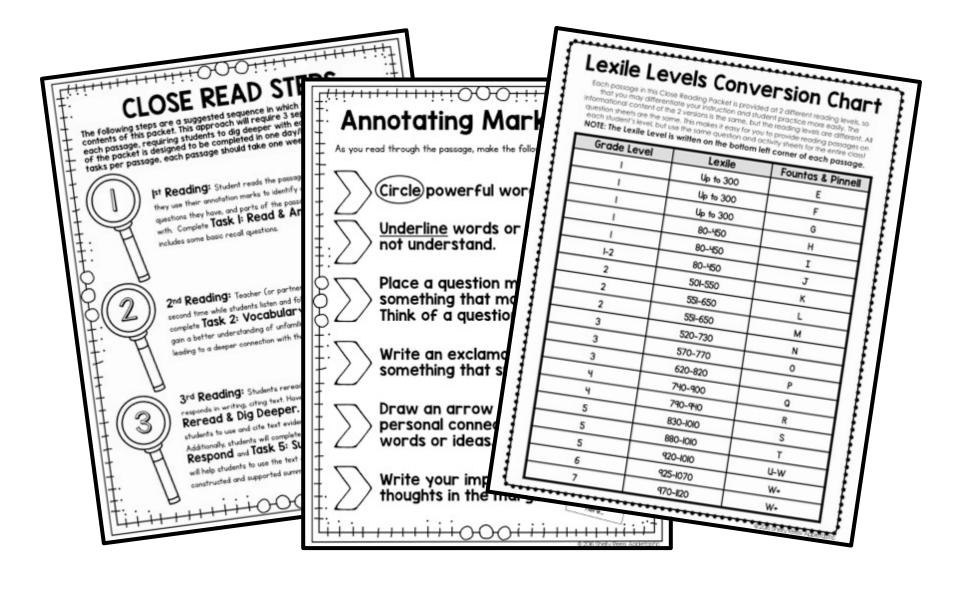
With their white fur, insulated bodies, and ability to swim in water and exist in freezing temperatures, the polar beer is an extremely inderesting and exciting animal!



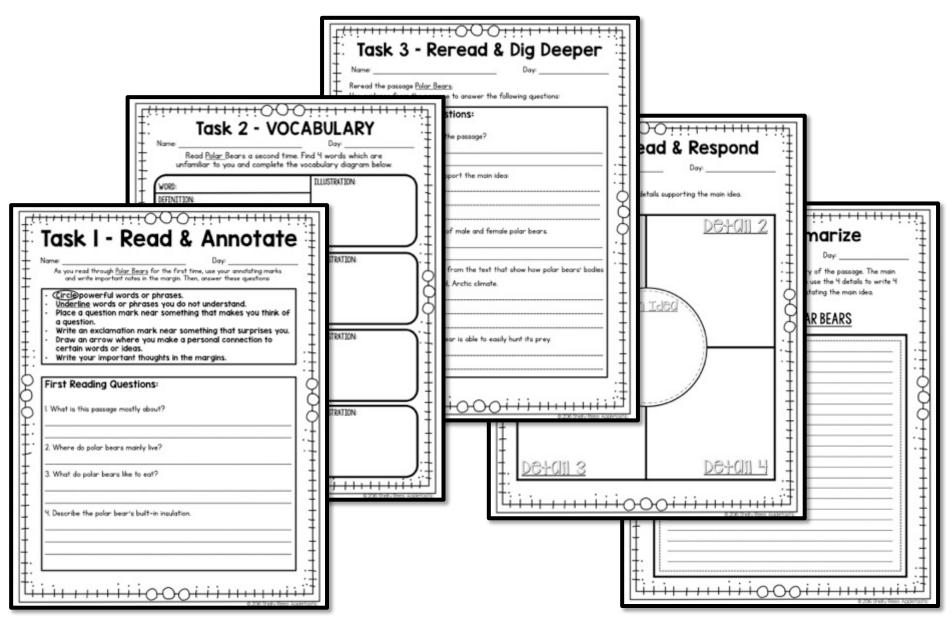
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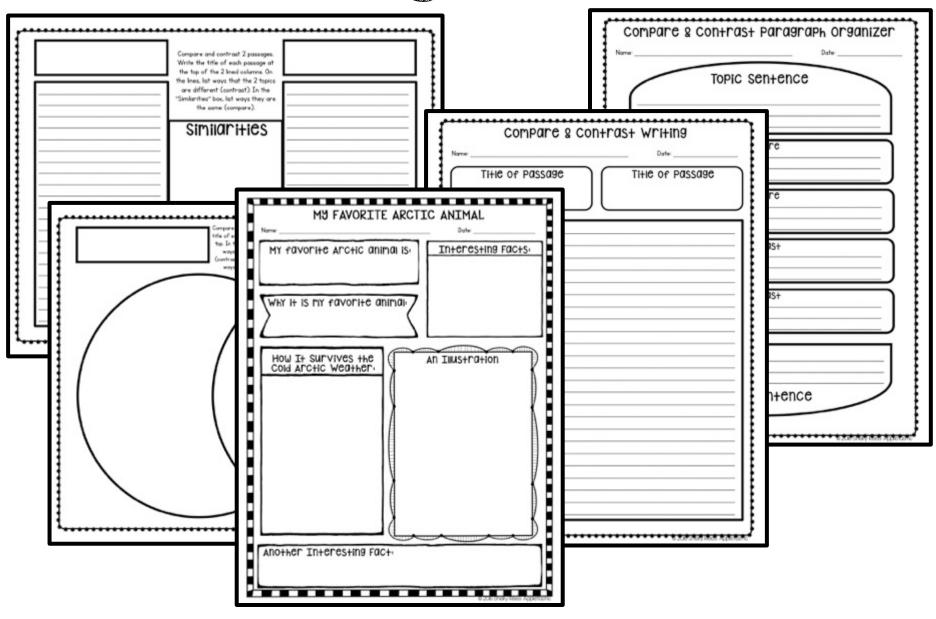
Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions



5 Days of Close Reading Activities for Each Passage



End of Unit Compare/Contrast Writing Activities



Answer Keys Provided

