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Arctic Animal Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

1. I'm the biggest bear in the world. My fur looks white, I swim very well, and I hunt seals from the sea ice. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I'm a small fox. My thick coat turns white in winter and brown or gray in summer, and I wrap my fluffy tail around me like a scarf when I sleep. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. I have two long tusks, a bristly mustache and a big, wrinkly body. I like to rest in huge, noisy groups on the ice. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm a whale with one long, spiral tusk sticking out of my head. People call me "the unicorn of the sea." What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. I'm a big white bird with yellow eyes. Unlike most of my relatives, I often hunt during the daytime. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. I'm a black-and-white seabird with a bright orange beak, so people call me a "sea parrot." Some of me nest on cliffs as far north as Greenland. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. I'm a small white whale with a round, bumpy forehead. I chirp, whistle and click so much that sailors called me the "sea canary." What am I?

   ANSWER _____

8. I look like a big white rabbit, with long back legs and ears tipped in black. I can stand up and hop on my hind legs to look around. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

9. I'm a thick layer of fat under the skin of seals, walruses and whales. I keep them warm in freezing water. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

10. I'm the frozen ocean water that polar bears walk on to hunt seals. I melt in summer and freeze again in winter. What am I?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I'm a big, shaggy animal with curved horns and a coat that hangs almost to the ground. When wolves come, my herd forms a circle with our calves safe in the middle. What am I?

ANSWER _____

12. I'm a small, round rodent. There's a famous story that we jump off cliffs together, but it's not true. Our numbers boom and crash every few years. What am I?

ANSWER _____

13. I'm a bird that turns white in winter, and my feet are covered in feathers like snowshoes. One kind of me is the state bird of Alaska. What am I?

ANSWER _____

14. My pups are born with a fluffy white coat. Adults like me have a dark marking on their backs shaped like a musical instrument. What am I?

ANSWER _____

15. A polar bear's fur looks white, but under it, its skin is a different color. What color?

ANSWER _____

16. A narwhal's famous tusk isn't a horn at all. What is it?

ANSWER _____

17. Walruses sometimes hook their tusks onto the ice to help pull their heavy bodies out of the water. Their scientific name comes from Greek words describing this. What does it mean?

ANSWER _____

18. I'm a small seabird with the longest yearly migration of any animal. I fly from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again every year. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. I'm a white hunter that lives in packs on the tundra. I chase musk oxen and arctic hares across the snow. What am I?

ANSWER _____

20. Most foxes have bare pads on their feet, but an arctic fox's paws are covered with something to keep them warm on the ice. What is it?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. Why will a polar bear never catch a penguin?

ANSWER _____

22. I'm a huge whale with a giant head that I use to break through sea ice to breathe. Scientists think some of me live for more than 200 years, the longest of any mammal. What am I?

ANSWER _____

23. I'm a small rodent that hibernates through the Arctic winter. While I sleep, my body temperature drops below the freezing point of water, and I still survive. What am I?

ANSWER _____

24. I'm the super-soft underwool of the musk ox, and I'm said to be several times warmer than sheep's wool. My name comes from the Inuit language. What am I?

ANSWER _____

25. Walruses find clams on the dark, muddy seafloor without using their eyes. They feel around with hundreds of these. What are they?

ANSWER _____

26. A polar bear, an arctic fox and a snowy owl are standing exactly on the North Pole. Which direction is each one facing?

ANSWER _____

27. I'm a slow shark that swims in cold Arctic waters. Scientists think I can live for hundreds of years, longer than any other animal with a backbone. What am I?

ANSWER _____

28. I'm a frozen ocean surrounded by land at the top of the world. My opposite at the bottom of the world is land surrounded by ocean. What am I?

ANSWER _____

29. I'm a weasel whose coat turns snow-white in winter, except for the black tip of my tail. Kings and queens once wore robes trimmed with my winter fur. What am I called in my white coat?

ANSWER _____

30. The word "Arctic" comes from the ancient Greek word for this animal, because the star pattern named after it shines over the far north. What animal is it?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Arctic Animal Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A polar bear**
2. **An arctic fox**
3. **A walrus**
4. **A narwhal**
5. **A snowy owl**
6. **A puffin**
7. **A beluga whale**
8. **An arctic hare**
9. **Blubber**
10. **Sea ice**
11. **A musk ox**
12. **A lemming**
13. **A ptarmigan**
14. **A harp seal**
15. **Black.** Dark skin soaks up warmth from the sun.
16. **A tooth.** It grows out through the narwhal's upper lip.
17. **Tooth-walker**
18. **An arctic tern**
19. **An arctic wolf**
20. **Fur**
21. **They live at opposite ends of the Earth.** Polar bears live in the Arctic, and almost all penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere.
22. **A bowhead whale**
23. **An arctic ground squirrel**
24. **Qiviut**
25. **Whiskers**
26. **South.** Every direction from the North Pole points south.
27. **A Greenland shark**
28. **The Arctic**
29. **An ermine**
30. **A bear**

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/arctic-animal-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.