



Welcome to the Arctic



by Honor Head

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Editors: Jean Coppendale and Mark J. Sachner

Designer: Emma Randall

Consultant: Sally Morgan

Production: John Lingham

Photo credits

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Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.



Welcome to the Arctic

The Arctic is one of the coldest places on Earth.

It is made up of a large ocean surrounded by flat, treeless land called **tundra**.

This icy **habitat** is home to polar bears, whales, birds, insects, and plants.



The Arctic tundra has many different ecosystems. An ecosystem includes all the living things in an area. It also includes non-living things such as the sea, ice, snow, and sun. Everything in an ecosystem has its own part to play.

The Arctic is in the most northern part of the world.



Arctic Ocean

Snow-covered tundra

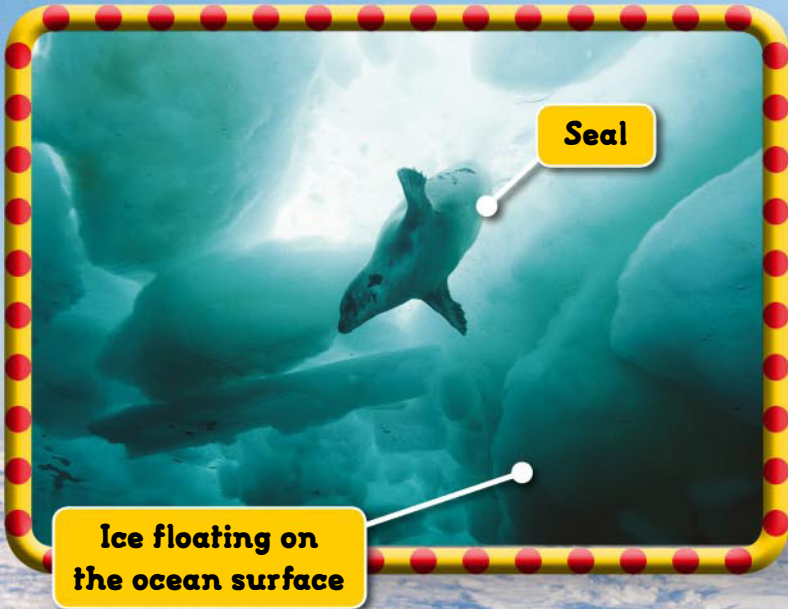
The Arctic Ocean is so cold that part of its surface is always frozen.

Sometimes in winter, this vast floating island of thick ice spreads and joins up with the land.

Let's find out what happens in this habitat.
Welcome to the Arctic!

Life in the Freezing Ocean

The Arctic Ocean may be icy, but it's filled with life.



Seals dive below the floating ice to hunt.

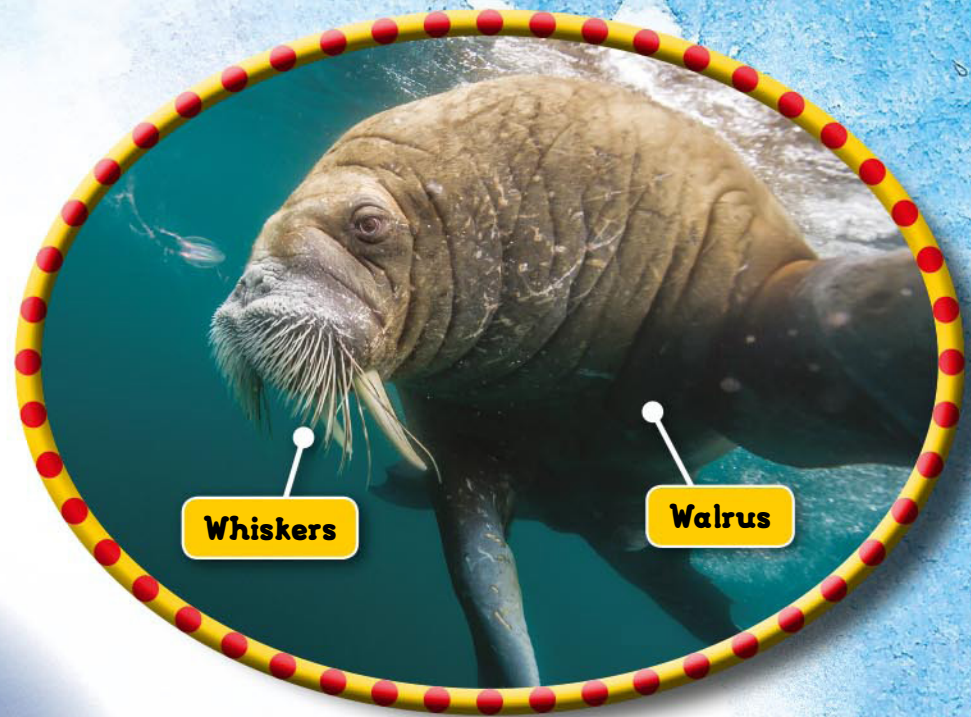
They use their flippers to twist and turn as they chase squid and fish.



Seals use their claws or teeth to make breathing holes in the ice where they can come up for air.

Breathing hole

Walrus use their sensitive whiskers to feel for clams, mussels, and other **prey** on the ocean floor.



Walrus have two extra-long teeth called tusks.

They use their tusks to pull themselves up onto **ice floes** when they want to rest.

Who is hunting for seals on the frozen ocean?