

Where are the Polar Bears?



STAGE 3



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Photographs by Peg & Datiz, Student Conservationists
Illustrations by George Carrara

Where are the Polar Bears?

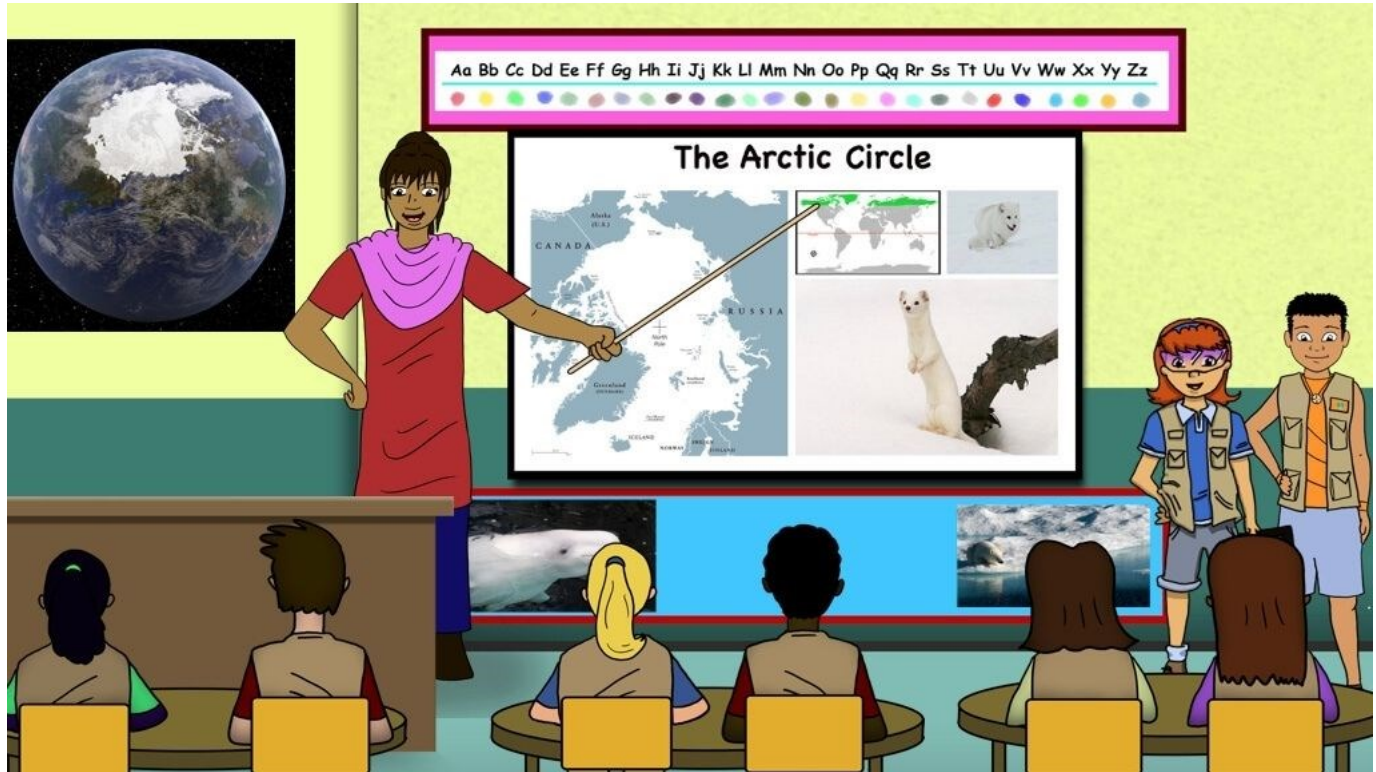


Datiz

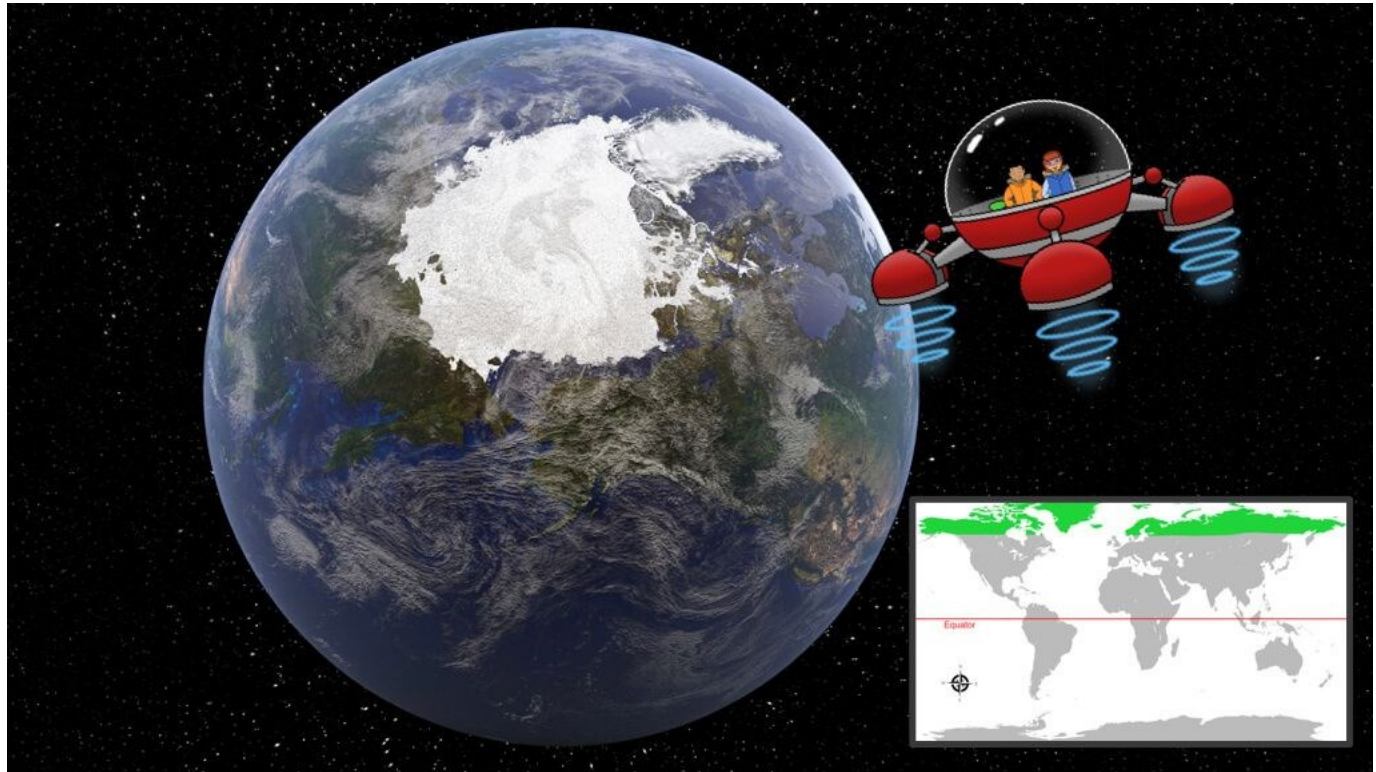


Peg

Characters



Ms. Lee tells her class about animals in Arctic Circle. Polar bears live in the Arctic Circle.



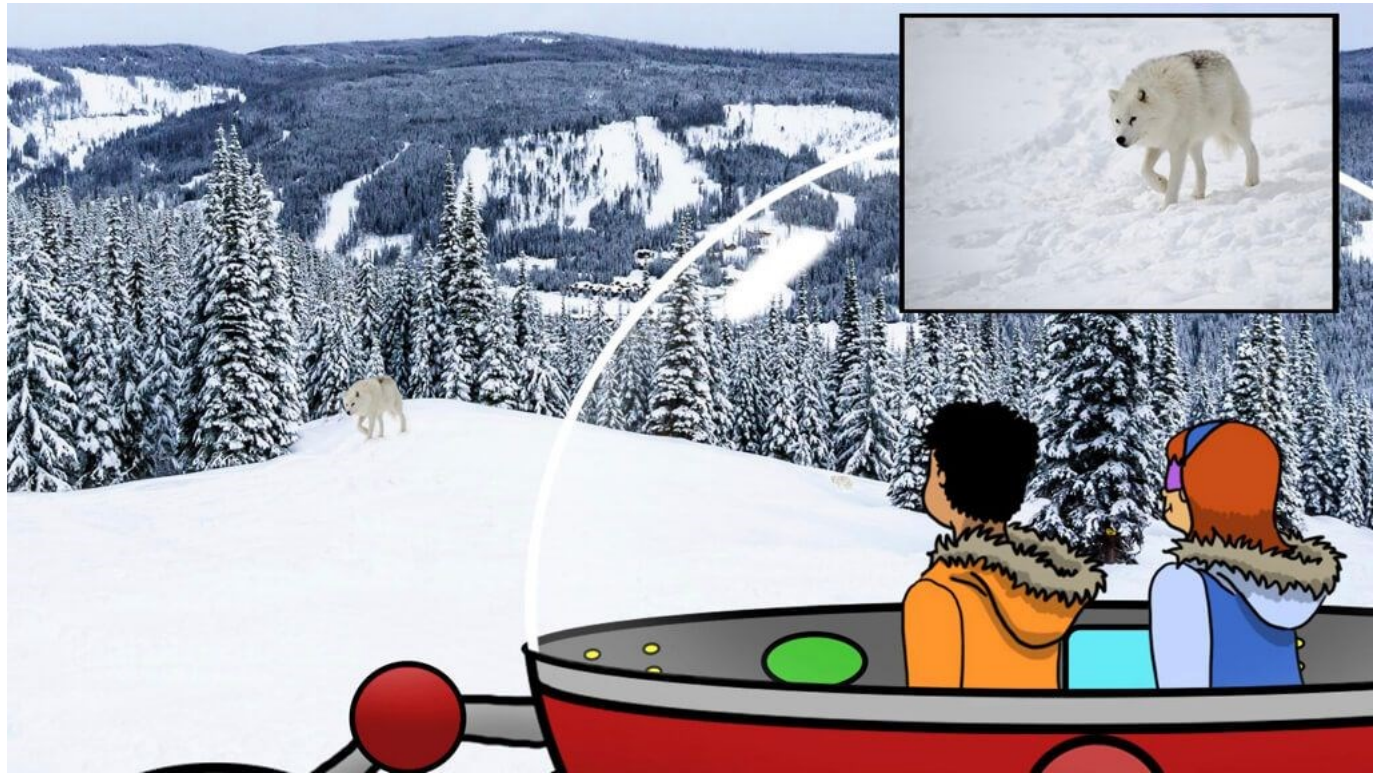
Peg and Datz go to the Arctic Circle. They want to see polar bears.



Thump, thump, thump. Look, it's a polar rabbit! says Peg. Where? asks Datiz. Behind the rocks, says Peg.



Next, they hear crunch, crunch, crunch. Datiz asks, "What's that across the pond?" Peg says, "It's an Arctic fox."



Datiz and Peg see tracks in the snow. A wolf comes around the bend. Datiz says, "The wolf blends in with the snow on the hill."



At last, Datiz and Peg see a polar bear! He is quick to pass Peg and Datiz.



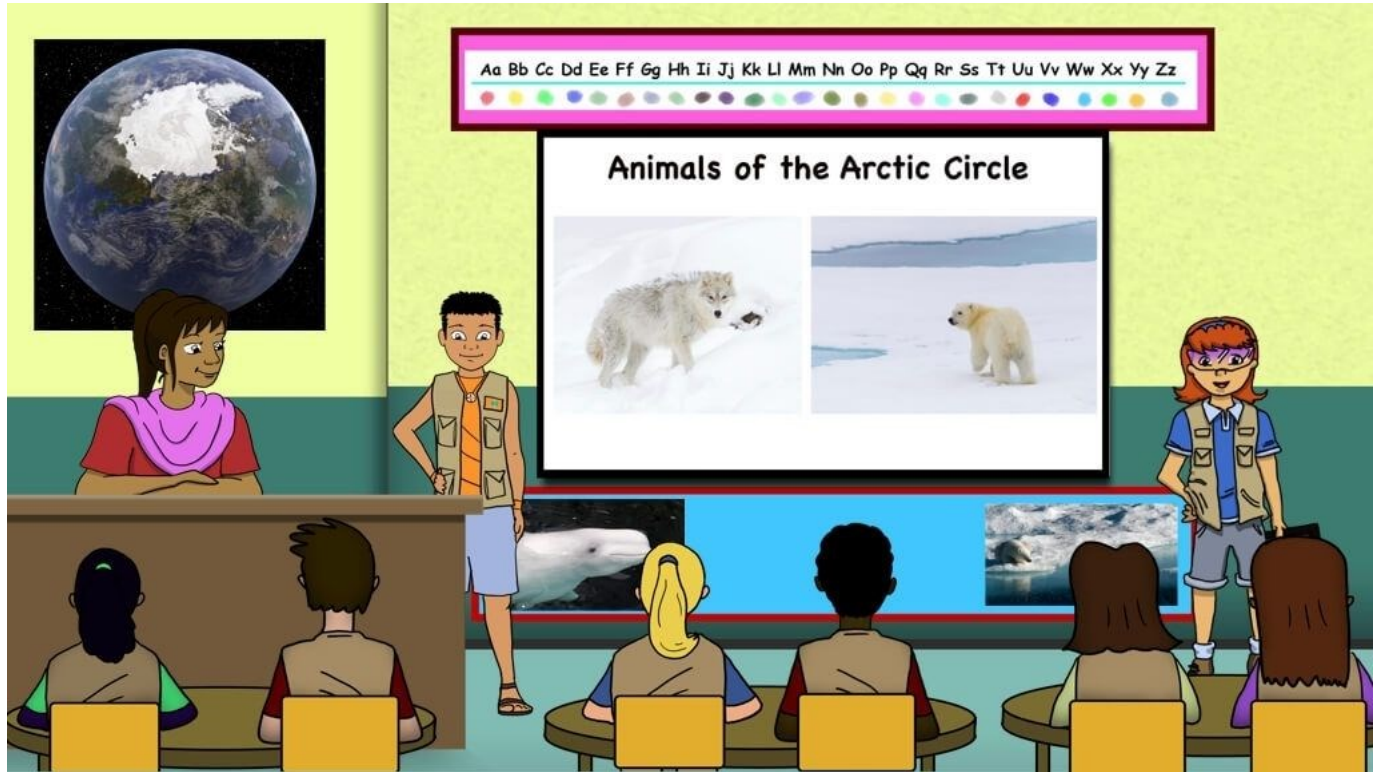
What luck! See the polar bear trot on the ice, says Peg. I think he is in a rush, says Datiz.



The polar bear bends down near the sea. Sniff, sniff, sniff. Hush, I think he smells a fish, says Peg. Plop, splash...

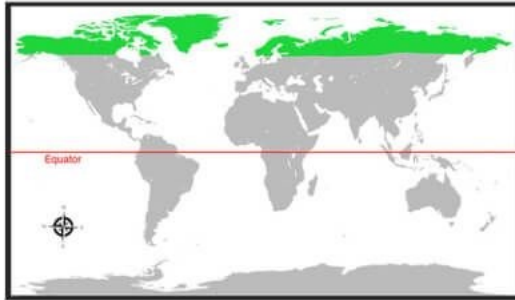


The polar bear is back in a flash. The polar bear swims back to the block of ice. I do not think he got a fish, says Datiz. So he still must be hungry, says Peg.



Peg and Datz tell the class about the animals of the Arctic Circle. The animals' fur blends in with the white snow, says Peg.

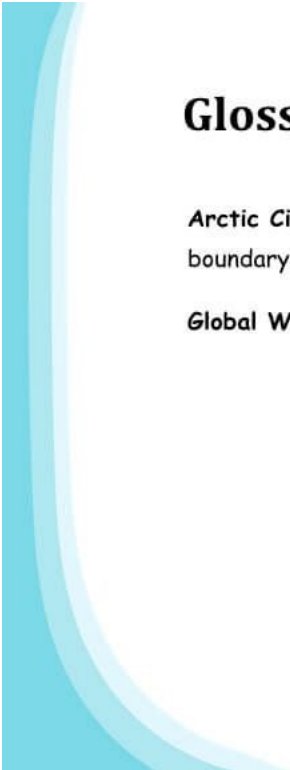
Map of the Arctic Circle



Arctic Facts

- The name 'Arctic' comes from the Greek word that means '*near the bear*'.
- The North Pole and the region of Arctic Ocean surrounding it do not belong to any country by international law.
- The lowest temperature recorded in the Arctic is around -90°F (-68°C).
- The Arctic contains a variety of natural resources including oil, gas, fish, and diverse minerals.
- The periods of midnight suns and polar nights become longer as we approach the North Pole. The sun sets and rises once a year at the North Pole.
- Due to **global warming**, the Arctic region has shrunk over the years.
- Scientists have predicted that the Arctic ice in the summer might completely disappear by 2040.



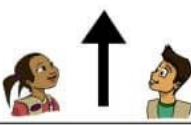


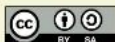
Glossary

Arctic Circle (p. 2) an imaginary line drawn around the earth parallel to the equator marking the boundary of the Arctic.

Global Warming (p 13) an increase in the world's temperatures.

Decodable Word Chart

Short /i/	Short /e/	Short /a/	Short /u/	Short /o/
				
in	Peg	class	thump	rocks
it	tells	and	crunch	pond
hill	next	rab- (rabbit)	luck	fox
think	bend	asks	rush	on
with	blends	an	must	trot
sniff	smells	tracks		plop
fish		last		block
swims		pass		not
think		that		got
is		splash		
-bit (rabbit)		fish		
		back		



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