




Arctic Warmth

Students will learn how arctic animals stay warm.

3rd - 5th
Grade

Materials

-  Bowl full of ice water
-  Shortening (like Crisco)
-  Paper towels for easy clean up

Directions

1. First, place bare hands in the ice water. Count how many seconds you could leave your hands in before it was too uncomfortable.
2. Next, you coat one finger with a thick layer of shortening to simulate blubber. Some animals only have a couple of inches of blubber covering their bodies, while some large whales can have a layer of blubber over a foot thick! It's no wonder these Arctic animals stay warm!
3. Once your fingers are covered in shortening immerse them again into the ice water. Notice that you can leave your fingers in for longer.

Fun Facts

- Polar bears live in the Arctic while penguins live in Antarctica. So while we often think of these two animals living in the same place, they actually live half a world a world away from each other!
- Blubber can also be a source of stored up energy if the animal ever finds itself without an immediate food source. Some whales, for example, only eat for a few months out of the year and then live on their blubber the rest of the year.

