

# January

NON FICTION  
TASK CARDS



Dear Educator,

Thank you for downloading this product. I'm excited to share this monthly set of non-fiction skills and strategies task cards with you! These were designed in a "Read Around The Room" format to keep your students actively engaged while gaining important reading practice. You'll find a KWL chart for activating prior knowledge, a "Fact File" for building background , and 8 task cards to read and answer questions. I recommend laminating them, as well as the answer sheet to make them longer lasting. You may wish to pair students up to make this a more cooperative learning activity, or just use them in a small group. Use the writing activity as an culminating activity, or for adding to interactive notebooks.

I strive to create quality products in my store. Please feel free to message me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this any other product.

This is a monthly set of Non-Fiction task cards. Check back each month for the latest set!

Be sure to follow [my store](#) to learn about new products, sales, and freebies. Thanks again!

-Emily Gibbons, [The Literacy Nest](#)



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What I know...

Large dashed box for writing.

What I want to know...

Large dashed box for writing.

Fill in the KWL  
Chart about  
Arctic Animals

What I learned...

Large dashed box for writing.



# Fact File: The Arctic Region



## Fast facts:

- The Arctic is the furthest point north on Earth.
- Arctic comes from the Greek word Arktos, which means “near the bear.”
- Global warming has caused this region to shrink over the years.

If you travel to the furthest point north on Earth, you have reached the Arctic Circle, a vast and cold place on our planet. Filled with fascinating plants and animals, over 4 million people inhabit the Arctic Region. The Arctic is made up of the Arctic Ocean, parts of Canada, Russia, USA, Greenland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland. Known for its extreme cold temperature, the Arctic is around  $-68^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

Indigenous, or native people named Inuit, have learned to adapt to the challenging conditions of this large region. Arctic animals such as foxes, wolverines, squirrels, hares, birds, and seals have special adaptations to help them survive as well.

Due to climate change and global warming, parts of the Arctic are actually shrinking. Rising temperatures and shrinking ice can have serious and harmful effects on the region. Studying the way of life in the Arctic Region helps us to realize how important it is to protect all living creatures.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions For "Arctic Region"

Answer in complete sentences.

1. Where is the Arctic Region?

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2. Where does the word, Arctic come from?

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3. Infer: Why is the Arctic Region so cold?

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4. If you were an animal in the Arctic, what adaptations would you need to survive?

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5. What is the author's purpose for this article? How do you know?

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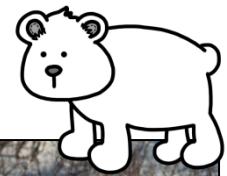
# Task Card Directions

Materials: task cards, recording sheet, pencil

1. Take one card at a time.  
Read it carefully.
2. Read the question.
3. Think about what the question is asking you to do.
4. Using information from the card, answer the question in a complete sentence on your recording sheet.



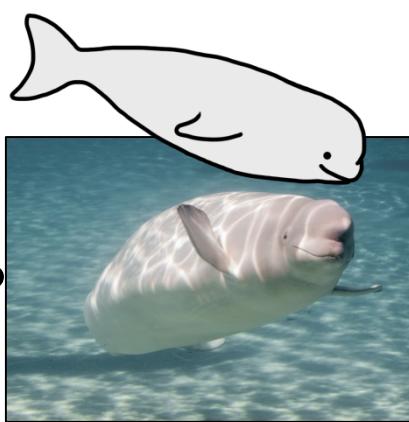
1. Polar bears are large carnivores and excellent swimmers. Up to 10 feet long and over 1,700 pounds, their main diet in the Arctic is seals and walruses. Their top coat looks white, but it's actually clear-colored fur. This helps them stay warm, dry and to camouflage. A layer of black fur is underneath.



### Question:

What are 2 features a polar bear has to adapt to the Arctic?

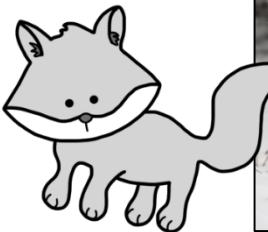
2. A Beluga whale is a short, white whale. Beluga means white one in Russian. Belugas are very social creatures. They travel together in pods of 2-25 whales to hunt or migrate all around the Arctic. Their main diet consists of fish, squid, worms and octopi.



Question:  
What does  
the word social mean?

3. Arctic foxes are carnivores, who unlike the beluga whale, hunt alone. Their fur is white during the winter and grayish-brown during the summer. They have long bushy tails called a sweep. The sweep can help an arctic fox when it's trying to change directions, or just to keep warm while it's sleeping.

**Question:** How could the sweep keep a fox warm while sleeping?



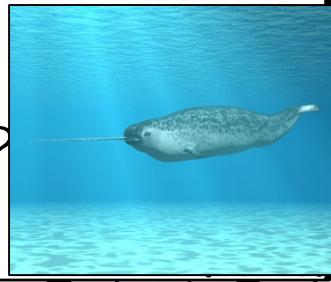
4. Snowy Owls are among the largest owls in North America. Unlike many other owls, they usually hunt during the daytime. Their sharp, pointy beaks and feather covered claws make it easy to search for lemmings, a snowy owl's main food source. Check out the photo of a snowy owl yawning in the corner!

**Question:**  
What are 3 adjectives in this paragraph?



5. There's no mistaking a narwhal in the Arctic. About the size of a beluga whale, it has a long, spiraled spear **jutting** out of its head. The spear is actually a tooth! It can grow up to 10 feet (3m) long. Scientists aren't certain, but they determined the tooth may be used to attract a mate, as defense against enemies or even as a way to sense changes in the water.

**Question:** In this paragraph, what part of speech is **jutting**? What does **jutting** mean?



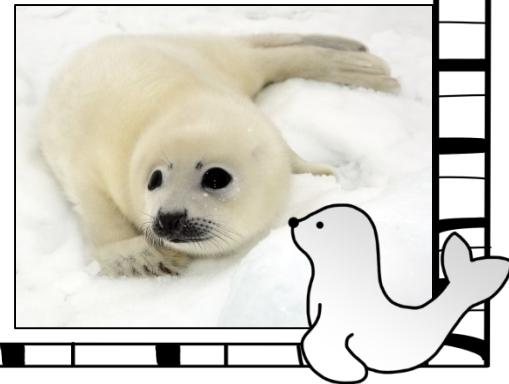
6. Puffins are sometimes called sea parrots for their large, bright bills. The bill is said to attract a mate. Both male and female puffins will create a nest in the side of a cliff called a burrow. They lay their eggs and raise their young. Baby puffins stay in the burrow since they are unable to fly. Both puffin Mom and Dad take turns bringing fish back to the burrow to feed their young.

**Question:** Infer: Why is a burrow a good place for puffins to raise their young?



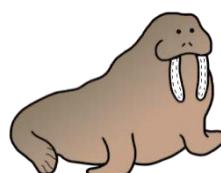
7. Harp seals spent most of their time swimming and diving in the frigid waters of the Arctic Ocean. They are social creatures and travel together in colonies. Even young seal pups will huddle together on the frozen ice, waiting for their mothers to bring their next meal. They'll soon join other seals in the water and begin to hunt for fish.

**Question:** What are 3 plural nouns in this paragraph?



8. Long tusks, a large mustache and a thick layer of blubber keep the walrus fit to thrive in the Arctic. Blubber is a thick layer of fat underneath the skin. It helps to insulate, or hold in heat of warm-blooded animals. Blubber also helps marine animals in the arctic keep their buoyancy, or stay afloat. A walrus depends on plenty of blubber for survival.

**Question:** What is the main idea of this paragraph?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Task Cards Recording Sheet

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.



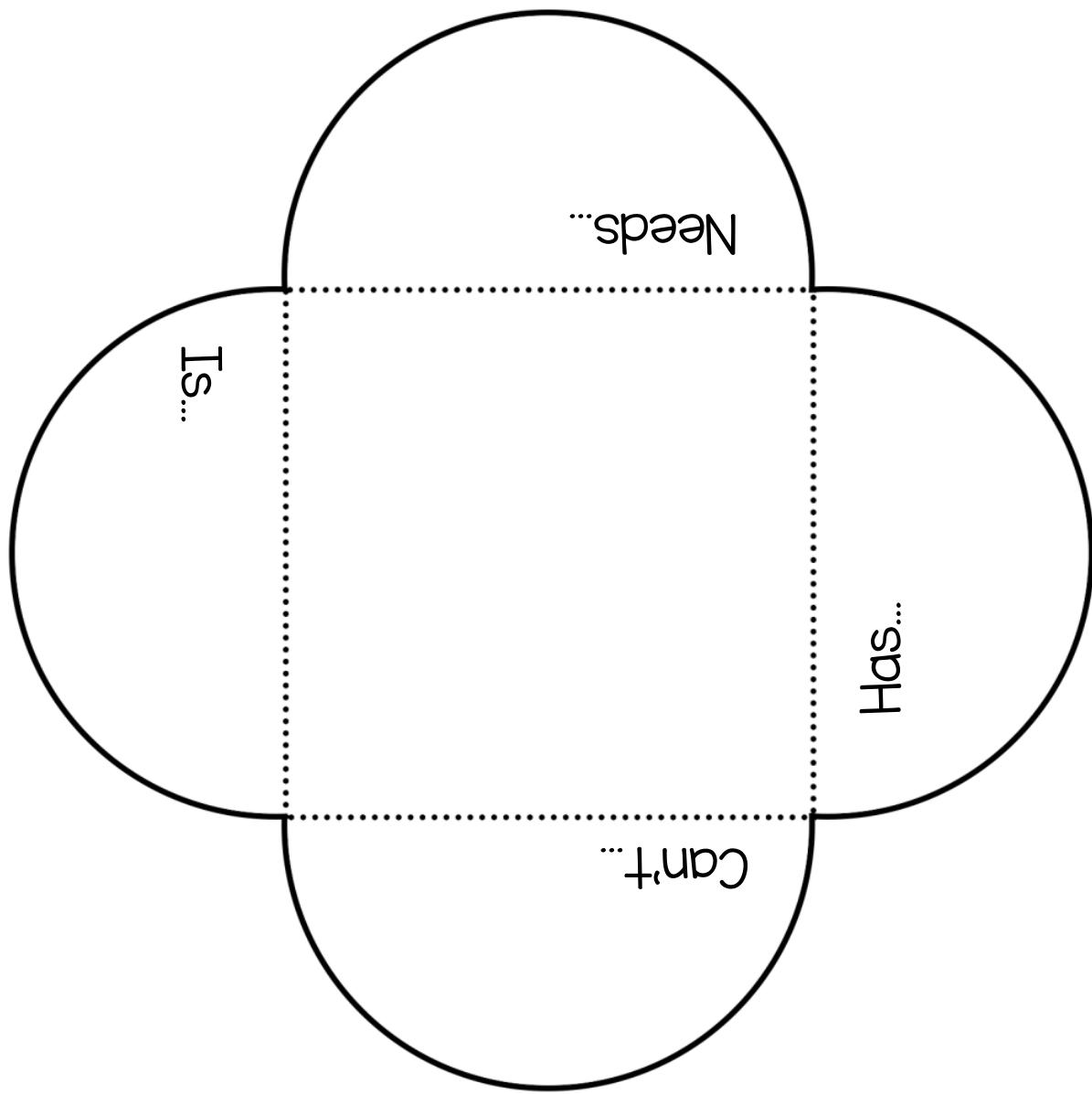
## Task Cards Recording Sheet

1. Two features a polar bear has to adapt to the Arctic is thick fur to camouflage and stay warm and being a strong swimmer for hunting.	2. Social means being among others and communicating.
3. The sweep is long and bushy so if a fox is sleeping, it can keep them warm like a blanket.	4. Three adjectives are largest, sharp and pointy.
5. Jutting means sticking out.	6. A burrow is a good place for a puffin to raise their chicks because it is hidden from predators.
7. Plural nouns: seals, creatures, colonies, pups, mothers, fish	8. The main idea of this paragraph is A walrus depends on plenty of blubber for survival.



Directions: Underneath each flap, complete the sentence with facts you have learned.

- Draw a picture of what an arctic animal in the center.
- Cut out the shape and fold on the dotted lines.
- Glue onto paper or into a notebook page.



# Writing Prompt

- Choose one of the arctic animals we have read about.
- Using the voice of that animal, write a diary entry about your day living and surviving in the Arctic Region.

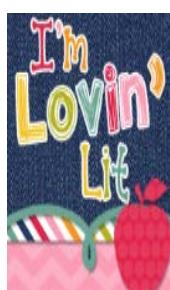
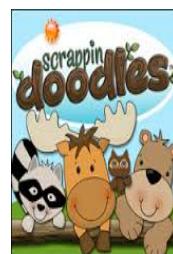
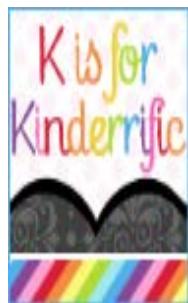
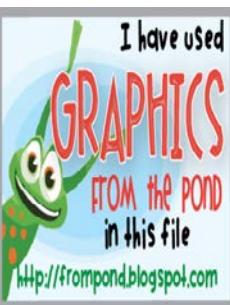
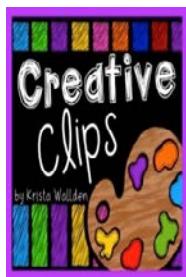
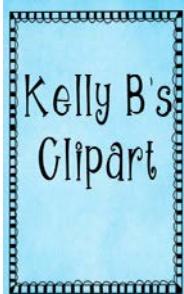


Dear

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_

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