LET'S LEARN ABOUT

Arctic Hares

This month, we're heading back off to the Arctic to learn all about another animal that's tough enough to take on the cold temperatures - let's find out all about the Arctic Hare!

Where do Arctic hares live?

Arctic hares live mostly above the northern treeline in the Arctic tundra. The Arctic tundra, which is found mostly within the Arctic Circle, is a really harsh environment that only the toughest animals (and plants!) can survive in.

In the Arctic tundra, winter lasts for around 8 months of the year, with summer only being around 2 months! Can you imagine living somewhere with only a couple of short summer months with beautiful blue skies and sunshine? During these brief summer months, the sun shines for almost 24 hours a day. In the long winter months though, it barely rises and it's dark for most of the day.

What do Arctic hares eat?

An Arctic hare's diet can vary a little depending on the time of year and what's available - food can be pretty hard to come by in the Arctic, after all! In winter, they dig through the snow to find themselves plants, mosses and lichen. Outside of winter, they enjoy tucking into berries, buds, leaves and barks.

Do they have friends?

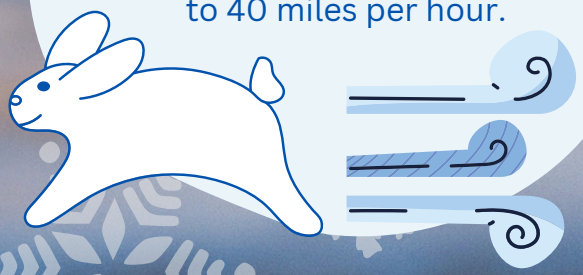
Yes and no! Sometimes, Arctic hares like to live by themselves. But some are just as happy living in a group of hundreds or thousands of other hares! In winter they're more likely to live in groups, as they can huddle together to keep warm and be on the lookout for predators.

FUN FACT!

Arctic hares change their coat colour. In winter, they have a brilliant white coat that helps to keep them camouflaged and hidden from predators. In spring, their coats change to a blue-grey colour to keep them hidden by surrounding rocks and vegetation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Arctic hares are mega fast! They can run at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour.



DID YOU KNOW?

In very cold weather, Arctic hares will dig into the ground or under the snow, creating a snow tunnel to shelter in with other hares, huddled together for warmth.

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