MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

ARCTIC WOLF

Canis lupus arctos · also called polar wolf or white wolf

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal (dog family, Canidae)
NATIVE REGION	Arctic islands of Canada and northern Greenland
HABITAT	High Arctic tundra above the tree line
DIET	Carnivore: muskoxen, Arctic hares, caribou, lemmings and birds
HEIGHT	24 to 30 inches at the shoulder
LENGTH	3 to 6 feet
WEIGHT	75 to 150 lb
LIFESPAN	7 to 10 years in the wild; longer in human care
STATUS	Least Concern (gray wolf)
OUR WOLVES	Thunder, Luna, Harley, and Shadow



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- The Arctic wolf is a kind of gray wolf, but its coat stays white all year.
- Its coat is two coats in one: a woolly underlayer and long guard hairs that shed snow and wind.
- Arctic wolves have short, round ears and fur between the pads of their feet to save heat.
- A wolf pack is a family: a breeding pair and their pups from the last year or two.
- A pack may range over hundreds of square miles in the High Arctic.

Words to know

Subspecies: A group within a species that lives in one area and looks a little different.
Tundra: Cold, treeless land where snow covers the ground most of the year.
Guard hairs: Long outer hairs that protect an animal's fur.
Pack: A family group of wolves.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Think about it

1. Why are Arctic wolves white all year?
2. How do an Arctic wolf's ears, legs and feet help it stay warm?
3. What is a wolf pack, and who leads it?
4. When is the best time of day to see Thunder, Luna, Harley, and Shadow moving, and why?
5. How is a warming climate affecting the Arctic wolf's home?

Draw it

Draw an Arctic wolf in the snow. Label its white coat, short round ears, stocky legs and furry feet.

STANDARDS · GRADES 3–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 3-LS2-1**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.B**

Draw here

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/arctic-wolf/ · **Sources:** IUCN Red List; Animal Diversity Web; L. David Mech (USGS); Marquard-Petersen, J. Mammalogy (1998).
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 3-LS2-1 (3.1.3.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo

FIELD TRIP WORKSHEET · PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

ARCTIC WOLF

Before and after your visit

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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the Arctic wolf live?
Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?
☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.
☐ Subspecies ☐ Tundra ☐ Guard hairs ☐ Pack

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the Arctic wolf.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?
☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching
☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: Arctic islands of Canada and northern Greenland. Was your guess right?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Carnivore: muskoxen, Arctic hares, caribou, lemmings and birds. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• How do an Arctic wolf's ears, legs and feet help it stay warm?

_____

• What is a wolf pack, and who leads it?

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT
Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/arctic-wolf/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.
Grades 3–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 3-LS2-1** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.B**