

WHY ARE THERE NO POLAR BEARS IN LAPLAND?

Reading Comprehension

When you think of the Arctic, you might imagine polar bears roaming across icy landscapes. But if you travel to Lapland in Finland, you won't find any polar bears there. Why not? Let's explore the surprising reasons behind this!

Polar bears are incredible animals that live in the far north, but they have very specific needs. They rely on sea ice to hunt for their favorite food: seals. Polar bears use the ice as a platform to rest and hunt. Without it, they can't survive. That's why polar bears are found near the Arctic Ocean, where there's plenty of sea ice for them to roam.

Lapland is a cold, snowy place in the Arctic Circle, but it's not near the ocean. Instead, Lapland has forests, tundra, and lots of lakes. While it's very cold, there's no sea ice for polar bears to use as their hunting ground. This makes Lapland unsuitable for polar bears, even though it's part of the Arctic region.

The key difference is food and habitat. Polar bears need seals, which live in the ocean. The animals in Lapland, like reindeer and Arctic foxes, thrive on land-based food like plants, berries, and smaller animals. Polar bears can't hunt seals on land, so they stay near the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean.

So, while Lapland is part of the Arctic, it's just not the right place for polar bears to call home. But that's okay—Lapland has plenty of other amazing animals to discover!



Name: _____

Date: _____

WHY ARE THERE NO POLAR BEARS IN LAPLAND?

Questions

1. Why don't polar bears live in Lapland?

- A. It's too warm for them.
- B. There's no sea ice for hunting seals.
- C. They can't find berries to eat.
- D. It's too snowy.

2. What do polar bears need to survive?

- A. Forests and trees
- B. Warm shelters
- C. Sea ice and seals
- D. Large lakes

3. What animals live in Lapland instead of polar bears? List at least two.

4. How is Lapland different from the Arctic Ocean?

5. If you could visit Lapland or the Arctic Ocean, which would you choose and why?