

Tips from the Author

Over in the Arctic offers some wonderful opportunities for extended activities. Here are a few suggestions:

- Ten different verbs were used in the story to show how each animal behaves. Act them out as you read or sing the story.
- Ask: What were the ten parents called as babies?
- Discuss: Which creatures in this book migrate? Which ones stay in the Arctic all year?
- Compare ears, noses, tails and toes of Arctic animals to some animals living in warm habitats.
- To find out how blubber keeps an animal warm, fill a zip-lock sandwich bag $\frac{1}{2}$ full with Crisco shortening. Flatten it down and then place it into another zip-lock bag. Place your hand palm down into the second bag so that the layer of the Crisco-filled bag covers your palm. Place your covered hand in a bowl of ice water. Now put your bare hand in the bowl. Feel the difference?



Let it snow!

- On a winter walk, identify animal tracks.
- Fill spray bottles with water and drops of food coloring. Paint on the snow.
- Freeze some black construction paper so you have it ready for the next snow fall. Go outside and let some snowflakes fall on the frozen paper. Examine them with a magnifying glass.
- Where it doesn't snow, make pretend snow pictures by mixing an equal amount of white glue and foam shaving cream in a plastic bowl. Use a small paintbrush or a Q-tip and make an Arctic snow picture on dark blue construction paper. When the picture has dried, the shaving cream will be puffy, just like real snow!



Arctic bookmarks

Visit the "Educator Tools" link at www.dawnpub.com to get reproducible bookmarks of four Arctic animals in this book that you can share with your readers.

Discover more about Arctic life!

- Animal Survivors of the Arctic* by Barbara A. Somervill (2004)
 - Arctic* by Wayne Lynch (2007)
 - Arctic Lights, Arctic Nights* by Debbie Miller (2007)
 - At the Poles, Animal Trackers Around the World* by Tessa Paul (1998)
 - Guide to Marine Mammals of Alaska* by Kate Wynne and Pieter Folkens (3rd ed., 2007)
 - Life Cycle of a Polar Bear* by Rebecca Sjonger and Bobbie Kalman (2005)
 - The Polar Bear Family Book* by Thor Larsen and Sybille Kalas (1996)
- www.defenders.org/index.php
www.ipy.org
www.mnh.si.edu/arctic
www.pinnipeds.org
www.polarbearsalive.org

I would love to hear from teachers and parents with creative ways to use this book. My website is: www.marianneberkes.com.

Tips from the Illustrator



The illustrations for this book were created using layers of cut paper. In my studio I have a rainbow of decorative paper to choose from. There are solid colored papers and papers with textures that range from deep embossed lines to delicate swirls. There are papers with all sorts of patterns like Japanese florals, bold dots and intricate prints.



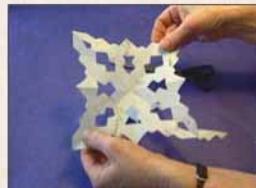
After researching the animals and their habitats, I make a detailed drawing of each illustration. Using a copy of my drawing as a pattern, I cut each piece out of decorative paper. Sometimes I use a toothpick to glue down small pieces. Then I spread a very thin layer of glue to assemble the elements. I then put the whole thing between two sheets of acetate and press it together under the heaviest books I have. This assures that each finished piece will lie flat. It's like putting a puzzle together! Each animal is made up of a variety of glued-together shapes. All the animals are glued to the background. I finish with colored pencils and pastels to add details, shading and emphasis.



You can see a photo of the walrus art on my desk, along with a copy of my drawing that I used for a pattern. You can make a collage of your own. Although most of the paper I use comes from art supply stores, you can find interesting paper all around: in magazines, wrapping paper, or origami paper. Even the lines on notebook paper can be cut and rearranged to make interesting patterns. Look around for inspiration and use your imagination!

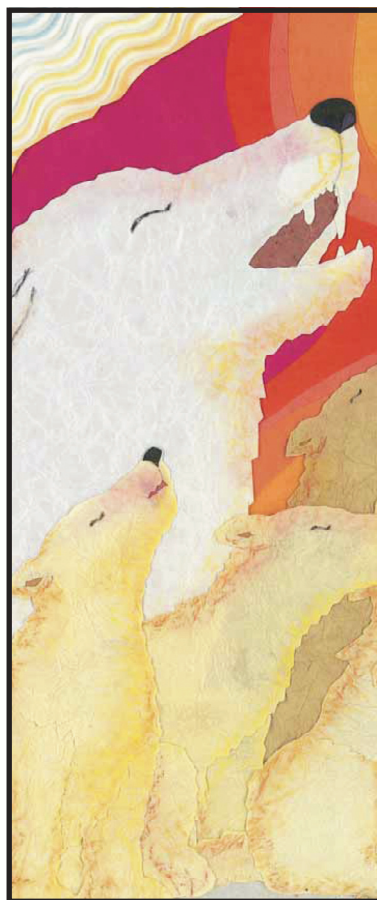


Making snowflakes is a fun and simple thing to do! Start with a square paper. Fold it in half diagonally. Fold it in half diagonally again. Once more, fold in half diagonally. Then cut out random shapes from the top and both sides. Open it to see your snowflake, tape ribbon to one of its points, and hang it up, perhaps in front of your window. As you make more snowflakes, make the cuts different and you will have lots of different designs. In nature, snowflakes have six points. But it's difficult to make a six-pointed snowflake with folded paper. These are beautiful even though they have four points.





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by Marianne Berkes
Illustrated by Jill Dubin
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