

Animal Adaptations:

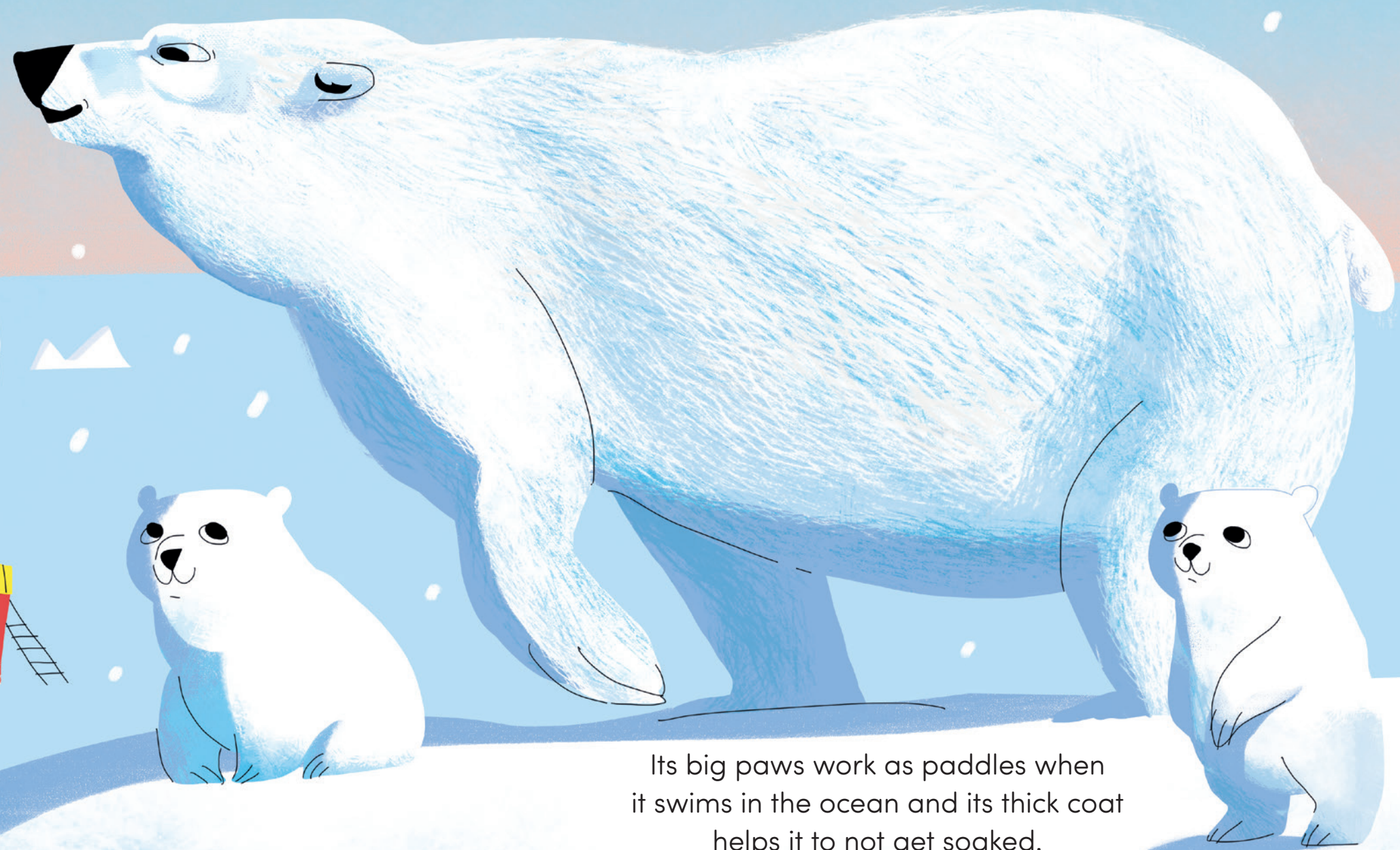
Extreme Conditions



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Even though a polar bear's fur is white, the skin underneath is dark. This is because the dark color better captures the sun's warmth, keeping the bear from freezing.

The polar bear's light-colored fur is also used as camouflage. While it hunts, it motionlessly keeps a lookout and blends in with the surrounding snow.



Hello!



Its big paws work as paddles when it swims in the ocean and its thick coat helps it to not get soaked.

What other animals are adapted for the cold?



In the winter, the polar fox exchanges its summer fur for a thick, warm coat. What's more, thanks to this new white coat, it can't be seen in the snow.



Thanks to its thickly feathered feet, a ptarmigan doesn't get cold feet. The feathers also prevent the bird from falling into the snow.



What pudgy fellows! Walruses need to be pudgy, as their layers of fat keep them from getting too cold. Cuddling with each other also helps!



Some animals don't fancy the winter. As soon as it gets cold, hedgehogs prefer to hole up in their burrow, not waking up until spring.

Dolphins are playful and social. They can also talk under water by whistling or making clicking or other sounds.

Even these guys need a breath of fresh air sometimes. They do it simply by sticking the breathing hole located on their back out of the water. Sometimes, though, they jump completely above the surface—just for fun.

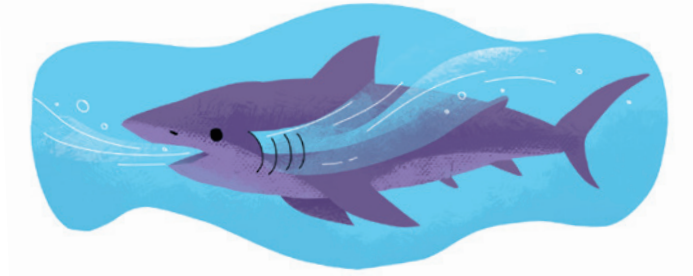
Catch me!

The shape of a dolphin's body is adapted for swimming. Its pointed snout parts the water, while the fins steer and its strong tail works as a motor.

What other animals have adapted to life in the water?



Sea otters are capable of spending their entire lives in the water. When a baby otter is born, it is transported on its mommy's tummy until it learns to swim.



Sharks never sleep, and some of them never even stop swimming. They have to constantly swim, allowing water to pass through their gills so they can breathe.



The fastest fish in the world is the sailfish. It shoots through the water like an arrow, leaving all other sea creatures behind.



Hippos nimbly move under water and also know how to close up their nostrils and ears so that water does not get inside.



Brr, it's chilly! What animal could ever survive such cold weather? Some animals don't mind the cold and some have even adapted so that their feet do not freeze. Other animals have gotten used to desert heat or high altitudes or have developed spectacular night vision. Can you identify these animals by their body parts? Find out how frogs can survive in the desert, how otters have adapted to life in the water, and which bird can fly the highest. What other extreme conditions can animals survive?

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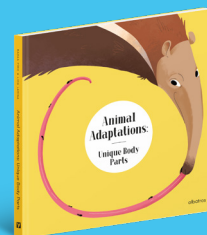
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