Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Foxes, Two Homes

Circle group

Some foxes live in cold places. Some live in hot places. Their bodies fit where they live.

The arctic fox lives in the far north. There is snow and ice. It has thick fur to stay warm. In winter, its fur is white. It is hard to see in the snow. Its ears are small and round. Small ears lose less heat.

The fennec fox lives in the hot desert. Its fur is the color of sand. Its ears are very big. Big ears let out extra heat. They also hear small bugs under the ground.

Both foxes dig dens. A den is a safe home. The arctic fox digs in snow or soil. The fennec fox digs in the sand to stay cool.

Questions

1. Where does the arctic fox live?

_____

_____

2. What color is the arctic fox in winter?

_____

_____

3. How are the ears of the two foxes not the same?

_____

_____

4. What do both foxes dig?

_____

_____

5. Why would thick fur not help a fennec fox?

_____

_____

Words to know

arctic: the very cold land and sea near the North Pole
desert: a dry place with very little rain
den: a safe home that an animal digs
heat: the warmth that comes from a body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Foxes, Two Homes

Triangle group

Some foxes live in very cold places. Some live in very hot places. Their bodies are made for where they live.

The arctic fox lives in the far north, where there is snow and ice. It has thick fur that keeps it warm. In winter, its fur is white, so it is hard to see in the snow. Its ears are small and round. Small ears lose less heat.

The fennec fox lives in the hot desert. Its fur is the color of sand, so it blends in. Its ears are very big. The big ears help the fox get rid of extra heat. They also help it hear small bugs moving underground.

Both foxes dig dens. A den is a safe home. The arctic fox digs in snow or soil. The fennec fox digs in the sand to stay cool.

Questions

1. Where does the arctic fox live?

_____

_____

2. What color is the arctic fox in winter?

_____

_____

3. How are the ears of the two foxes different?

_____

_____

4. What do both foxes dig?

_____

_____

5. Why would thick fur not help a fennec fox in the desert?

_____

_____

Words to know

arctic: the very cold land and sea near the North Pole
desert: a dry place with very little rain
den: a safe home that an animal digs
blends in: looks so much like what is around it that it is hard to see
heat: the warmth that comes from a body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Foxes, Two Homes

Square group

Some foxes make their homes in freezing places, while others live where it is scorching hot. The body of each kind of fox is perfectly suited to the place where it lives.

The arctic fox lives in the far north, where snow and ice cover the land. Its thick fur keeps it warm, and in winter that fur turns white, so the fox is difficult to spot against the snow. Its ears are small and round, and small ears lose less heat.

The fennec fox, on the other hand, lives in the hot desert. Its fur is the color of sand, which helps it blend into its surroundings. Its ears are enormous, and they help the fox get rid of extra heat. They also allow it to hear small bugs moving underground.

Both kinds of fox dig dens, which are safe homes. The arctic fox digs in snow or soil, but the fennec fox digs in the sand to stay cool.

Questions

1. In what kind of place does the arctic fox live?

_____

_____

2. What color does the arctic fox's fur turn in winter?

_____

_____

3. How do the ears of the two foxes differ?

_____

_____

4. What do both kinds of fox dig for a safe home?

_____

_____

5. Why would thick winter fur be a poor choice for a fennec fox?

_____

_____

Words to know

arctic: the very cold land and sea near the North Pole
desert: a dry place with very little rain
den: a safe home that an animal digs
heat: the warmth that comes from a body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Two Foxes, Two Homes

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Two Foxes, Two Homes

Easier · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. In the far north, where there is snow and ice.
2. White.
3. The arctic fox has small ears. The fennec fox has big ears.
4. Dens.
5. The desert is hot, so thick fur would be too warm.

Triangle: Two Foxes, Two Homes

This passage · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. In the far north, where there is snow and ice.
2. White.
3. The arctic fox has small, round ears. The fennec fox has very big ears.
4. Dens.
5. The desert is hot, so thick fur would make it too warm.

Square: Two Foxes, Two Homes

Harder · 161 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. In the far north, where snow and ice cover the land.
2. White.
3. The arctic fox has small, round ears, and the fennec fox has enormous ears.
4. Dens.
5. The desert is scorching hot, so thick fur would make the fox far too warm.