

Polar

Design Intent

While stark in nature, these frozen frontiers exude a serene beauty. Colorful skies strike a clean line against the crisp white snowdrifts and the deep blues of the freezing water. *Polar* drops our intrepid explorers into the middle of a wintry wonderland, introducing them to the diverse residents who call it home. Hop across ice floes and traverse the tundra to meet up with your supply drop and stock up for your frosty adventure. Keep your eyes peeled for polar bears, take a deep breath of the Arctic air, and take your first snowshoed steps toward the unknown.

Technology Components

N/A

Mural Features

- Arctic Wolf-Artic wolves, also known as polar or white wolves, live above the northern tree line in the Arctic tundra of North America and Greenland. During the winter, when the region experiences 24 hours of darkness, they migrate in search of food. Their primary prey includes muskoxen or Arctic hare, but they also feed on lemmings, caribou, Arctic foxes, birds, and beetles.
- Polar Bear- Polar bears are the largest bear in the world and the Arctic's top predator. They primarily eat seals and spend 50% of their time hunting. Polar bears roam the Arctic ice sheets across long distances and use their large front paws to swim in coastal waters. The polar bear, with no natural predators, has no fear of humans.
- Narwhal-The narwhal is a toothed whale native to the Arctic that can grow up to 10 feet. Found in the icy waters of Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia, narwhals use their tusk for sensing their environment and socializing. They primarily feed on fish, squid, and shrimp.
- Emperor Penguin-The emperor penguin is the largest of the 18 penguin species. Adults can grow to approximately 50 inches tall and weigh up to 100 pounds. It has a black-and-white body with yellow markings near its head. Adapted to the harsh Antarctic climate, it endures extreme cold by huddling in groups and relying on a thick layer of blubber and dense feathers for insulation. Emperor penguins are amazing divers, searching for krill, fish, and squid to fulfill their diet.



Mural Features

- Arctic Elk (Moose)- Six species of moose inhabit the subarctic forest, displaying colors from golden brown to nearly black, depending on their age and the season. Male moose grow and shed their antlers annually, regrowing them after each mating season. Moose can reach up to 7 feet in height and weigh as much as 1,500 pounds, consuming a diet of grass and twigs.
- Iceberg-Icebergs are huge blocks of ice that break off from glaciers and float in the ocean, sometimes as large as houses or buildings. Icebergs are made from frozen freshwater; they originate from compacted snow rather than saltwater. The largest recorded iceberg, which broke off from Antarctica, measured over 656 feet tall and spanned 4,250 square miles.
- Siberian Husky-The Siberian Husky is a working dog, originally bred in Northeast Asia for sled pulling and championship. It is recognizable by its thickly furred double coat, triangular ears, and individual markings. Now, the Siberian Husky is commonly kept as a household pet, but its genetic tolerance for extreme cold also makes it well-suited for work as a sled dog.
- Dog Sled-A dog sled is a sled designed to glide over snow and ice, typically pulled by a team of sled dogs. It features a sturdy frame with runners on the bottom, allowing for smooth movement, and a handlebar at the back where the musher stands to steer. Dog sleds are traditionally used for transportation, racing, and recreational mushing in cold, snowy regions.
- Snowy Owl-Snowy owls are native to the Arctic regions of North America and the Arctic tundra. In the summer, they are nomadic, moving in search of food. These owls typically measure between 20 and 27 inches long and weigh 3 to 6 pounds, making them the heaviest owl species in North America. Their diet mainly consists of lemmings, but they also hunt rodents, rabbits, small mammals, and various birds.
- Snow Castle-A snow castle or snow fort is a temporary structure built from snow, typically built for entertainment and fun.

Themes to Explore

- Arctic Animals
- Explorers
- Properties of Water and Ice
- Night Sky Observations
- Arctic Recreation
- Inuit Culture

Mounted Animals and Artifacts

- King Penguin-The king penguin is the second largest species of penguin, smaller than but somewhat similar in appearance to the emperor penguin. King penguins mainly eat lanternfish, squid, and krill. On foraging trips, king penguins repeatedly dive to over 300 feet and have been recorded at depths greater than 950 feet.
- Polar Bear Cub-Polar bear cubs are usually born in pairs or alone, weighing between 16-24 ounces at birth with their eyes closed. They open their eyes after about a month and start walking at around two months old. after two. Depending on food availability and safety, cubs remain with their mother for up to 30 months.

Mounted Animals and Artifacts

- Igloo- An igloo is a dome-shaped shelter made of compacted snow, traditionally built by the Inuit and other Indigenous peoples of the Arctic. Its design insulates against the cold by trapping body heat inside, making it a warm location in freezing conditions. Igloos are often used as temporary homes or hunting shelters in snowy environments.
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List of Hansa Animals

- Emperor Penguin (Large), Emperor Penguin (Medium), Emperor Penguin (Small), Siberian Husky

To Find Out More

- National Wildlife Federation
- World Wildlife Fund
- NSF: Arctic and Antarctic