

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

- 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

- Musk Ox- The musk ox is a herbivore native to the arctic, primarily feeding on grasses, lichens, and woody plants found in shallow snow. These mammals are well-adapted to the harsh, cold environments in which they live. Musk oxen have notably large heads, short necks, and muscular legs that enable them to traverse the snow. Their thick fur, including a layer of fine undercoat known as qiviut, provides insulation against extreme cold, making them one of the most resilient animals in the Arctic.
- **I**ceberg-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 salt water. 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.
- Seal-In the Arctic, seals, such as the ringed seal, harp seal, and bearded seal, are more common than sea lions. There are 33 species of seals, all classified as pinniped mammals, identified by their ear holes. Seals move on land by sliding on their bellies and using small front flippers along with larger rear flippers that propel them back and forth. They are the only marine mammals that feed in the water but return to land to breed, primarily eating fish.
- 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.
- Pacific Walrus-The Pacific walrus is a large marine mammal found in the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea. Males can weigh over 3,000 pounds and reach up to 12 feet in length, while females are slightly smaller. They use their long tusks for defense, establishing authority, and helping to get themselves out of the water. Pacific walruses primarily feed on bottom-dwelling creatures like clams, snails, and worms, using their sensitive whiskers to detect prey on the ocean floor.
- Arctic Fox-The Arctic fox is a small mammal well-adapted to life in the frozen tundra. It weighs between 6 and 10 pounds and measures about 18 to 27 inches long. Arctic foxes are opportunistic eaters, feeding on lemmings, birds, eggs, and even leftover scraps from polar bear kills. Their thick fur changes color with the seasons, white in winter for camouflage in snow, and brown or gray in summer to blend with the tundra.

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- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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