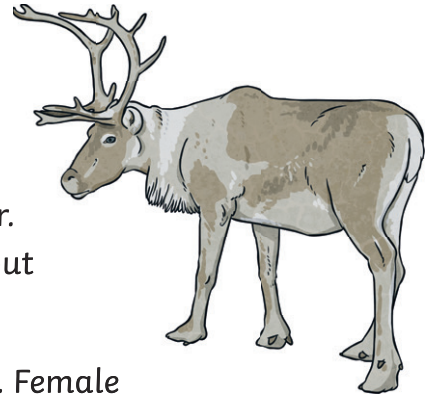


Reindeer

Reindeer and caribou are actually the same species but there are some significant differences between the two. Caribou are large, wild animals located in Greenland and northern North America, whereas reindeer are a little smaller and stouter. Reindeer can be kept as pets or used as working animals. Large populations of wild reindeer can be found in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

Appearance

Reindeer vary in size and colour. The largest reindeer species is the Finnish forest reindeer, which have longer legs than other reindeer species. To help them in their forest environment, these reindeer have antlers which grow closer together. This means they can travel through the forest without becoming obstructed.



Both males and females can grow antlers every year. Female reindeer keep their antlers until they give birth. Keeping their antlers enables them to compete for food during their pregnancy. Males shed their antlers every winter and these are usually larger than those of the females.

Did you know?

- Reindeer have an extremely strong sense of smell which helps them to locate food under the snow.
- They are very good swimmers.
- Male reindeer are called bulls and females are known as cows. Babies are called calves.
- Reindeer have special noses. They can warm the incoming cold air using their body heat, before it enters their lungs.
- They can see ultraviolet light.

Reindeer are built for snow and cold conditions. They can even maintain their core body heat. Their hooves also change depending on the season to help them travel across different terrain. In the winter, their footpads shrink and tighten,

exposing the rim of the hoof which can cut into the ice and snow to stop the animal from slipping.

Diet

Reindeer eat specific types of lichens (a slow-growing plant). This helps to keep their blood warm, enabling them to survive freezing cold winters. They also eat leaves and grass, and some have been known to enjoy mushrooms and fish.

Where do they live during winter?

During migration, some North American caribou travel up to 5000km every year! However, reindeer don't migrate such long distance. Some reindeer prefer the shelter of the forest during the winter months.

Threats

For hundreds of years, many people have relied upon reindeer and caribou for their meat, skin and antlers. The skin can be turned into clothing or bedding and the antlers can be used to create tools.

Reindeer have several predators. Golden eagles prey on calves, and polar bears and brown bears hunt reindeer of all ages. The grey wolf is also a very effective reindeer predator.

In 2015, reindeer were classed as 'vulnerable' due to a significant decline in their population over the last 25 years.

Reindeer Questions

1. Where are populations of wild reindeer located?

2. How does having antlers which grow closer together help a reindeer which lives in the forest?

3. What changes at different times of the year to help reindeer travel across a variety of terrain?

4. Give three examples of food eaten by reindeer.

5. Why are reindeer and caribou hunted by humans? What do you think about this?

6. What could happen if reindeer didn't have an extremely strong sense of smell?

7. Why are reindeer viewed as 'vulnerable'?

8. What could be done to help the reindeer population?

Reindeer Answers

1. Where are populations of wild reindeer located?

Populations of wild reindeer can be located in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

2. How does having antlers which grow closer together help a reindeer which lives in the forest?

Reindeer which have antlers that grow closer together can travel through the forest without becoming obstructed.

3. What changes at different times of the year to help reindeer travel across a variety of terrain?

Their hooves change depending on the season to help them travel across different terrain. In the winter, the footpads shrink and tighten, exposing the rim of the hoof which can cut into the ice and snow to stop the animal from slipping.

4. Give three examples of food eaten by reindeer.

Answers will include three of the following: specific types of lichens, leaves, grass, mushrooms or fish.

5. Why are reindeer and caribou hunted by humans? What do you think about this?

Reindeer are hunted for their meat, skin and antlers. Their skin can be turned into clothes or bedding and antlers can be used to create tools.

6. What could happen if reindeer didn't have an extremely strong sense of smell?

If reindeer didn't have an extremely strong sense of smell then they wouldn't be able to smell and locate food under the snow. They may starve.

7. Why are reindeer viewed as 'vulnerable'?

Reindeer are viewed as being 'vulnerable' due to a significant decline in their population over the last 25 years.

8. What could be done to help the reindeer population?

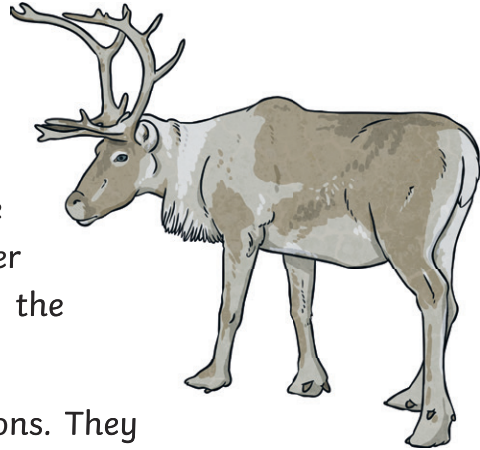
Various answers.

Reindeer

Reindeer and caribou are actually the same species but there are some significant differences between the two. Caribou are large, wild animals that live in Greenland and northern North America, whereas reindeer are smaller. Reindeer can be kept as pets or used as working animals. Large populations of wild reindeer can be found in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

Appearance

Both males and females can grow antlers. Female reindeer keep their antlers until they give birth. Keeping their antlers allows them to compete for food during while they are pregnant. Males shed their antlers every winter and these are usually larger than those of the females.



Reindeer are built for snow and cold conditions. They can even look after their own temperature so that they don't get too cold. Their hooves change depending on the season to help them travel across different surfaces.

Did you know?

- Reindeer have a fantastic sense of smell which helps them to find food under the snow.
- They are very good swimmers.
- Male reindeer are called bulls and females are known as cows. Babies are called calves.

Diet

Reindeer eat lichens (a slow-growing plant). This helps to keep their blood warm during the freezing cold winters. They also eat leaves and grass.

Where do they live in winter?

Some North American caribou will travel up to 5000km every year when they migrate. Reindeer don't migrate such long distances. Some reindeer prefer the shelter of the forest during the winter.

Dangers

For hundreds of years, people have hunted reindeer and caribou for their meat, skin and antlers. Their skin can be used for clothes and their antlers turned into tools.

Reindeer have several predators. Golden eagles prey on calves, and polar bears and brown bears hunt reindeer of all ages.

In 2015, reindeer were said to be 'vulnerable' due to a decrease in their numbers in the last 25 years.

Reindeer Questions

1. Where can wild reindeer be found?

2. What do both males and females have in common?

3. How does eating lichen help reindeer?

4. Where do some reindeer prefer to shelter during the winter months?

5. List two things that reindeer are hunted for.

6. List two reindeer predators.

7. How does their nose help them?

8. What are baby reindeer called?

Reindeer Answers

1. Where can wild reindeer be found?

Reindeer can be found in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

2. What do both males and females have in common?

Both males and females grow antlers every year.

3. How does eating lichen help reindeer?

Eating lichen helps reindeer by keeping their blood warm during the freezing cold winters.

4. Where do some reindeer prefer to shelter during the winter months?

Some reindeer prefer the shelter of the forest during the winter months.

5. List two things that reindeer are hunted for.

Answers will include two of the following: meat, skin or antlers.

6. List two reindeer predators.

Answers will include two of the following: humans, golden eagles, polar bears or brown bears.

7. How does their nose help them?

Reindeer have a fantastic sense of smell which helps them to find food under the snow.

8. What are baby reindeer called?

Baby reindeer are called calves.

Reindeer

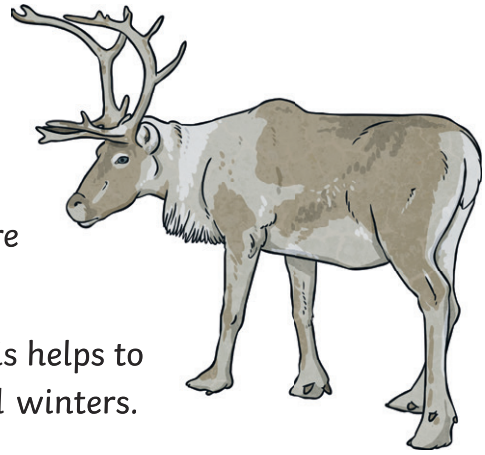
Reindeer and caribou look similar but they are different in some ways. Caribou are large, wild animals living in Greenland and northern North America and reindeer are smaller. Reindeer can be kept as pets or used as working animals. Large numbers of wild reindeer can be found in Norway, Alaska and Canada.

What do they look like?

Males and females can grow antlers every year. Males shed their antlers every winter.

Reindeer are built for snow and cold conditions. They can even look after their own temperature so that they don't get too cold!

Reindeer eat lichens (a slow-growing plant). This helps to keep their blood warm during the freezing cold winters. They also eat leaves and grass.



Dangers

For hundreds of years, people have hunted reindeer and caribou for their meat, their skin and their antlers. Their skin can make clothes and their antlers can be turned into tools.

Calves (babies) are also hunted by golden eagles, and polar bears and brown bears hunt reindeer of any age.

The number of reindeer has gone down in the last 25 years.

Reindeer Questions

1. Give the names of two places where wild reindeer can be found.

2. What do male and female reindeer have in common?

3. What is special about a reindeer's temperature?

4. Give the names of two foods eaten by reindeer.

5. Why do hunters want reindeer antlers?

6. What are baby reindeer called?

Reindeer **Answers**

1. Give the names of two places where wild reindeer can be found.

Answers will include two of the following: Norway, Alaska or Canada.

2. What do male and female reindeer have in common?

Male and female reindeer can grow antlers every year.

3. What is special about a reindeer's temperature?

Reindeer can look after their temperature.

4. Give the names of two foods eaten by reindeer.

Answers will include two of the following: lichens, leaves or grass.

5. Why do hunters want reindeer antlers?

Hunters want reindeer antlers as it can be turned into tools.

6. What are baby reindeer called?

Baby reindeer are called calves.