

Question 1**Day 1****What color is a polar bear's fur?**

Did you say white? If you did, you're . . . wrong! It's not white! Each hair is really like a clear hollow tube. It just looks white because it reflects the light and gets the sun's heat.

Also, their fur is oily and water repellent. The water doesn't stay on them. Picture a wet dog. You know how it shakes itself to get the water off? Polar bears do that, too! Think how important that would be when you're in the Arctic. If they didn't, they'd get icy buildup and freeze to death!

Question 2**Day 1****What color is a polar bear's skin?**

Did you say white? If you did, you're . . . wrong! Under the fur, they aren't white. They're black! That's another way God designed them to get the sun's heat to stay warm.

And they have four inches of fat under their skin!
That helps the heat stay in their bodies, too.

The combination of thick fur, reflecting light, and lots of fat makes the polar bear stay warm and tasty!

Question 3**Day 1****The bottoms of their paws are rough and have fur between the pads. Why do you think that would be helpful?**

Did you say so they won't slip on the ice? If you did, you're . . . right! They also have hooked claws that dig into the ice. Another design feature that helps them not slip. God thought of everything!

And if they're on thin ice, they spread their legs apart and get down low to distribute their weight.

Those paws are actually quite huge and out of proportion with their bodies. They're webbed, which makes them perfect for walking on top of snow without breaking through (think snowshoes) and perfect for making good time swimming in the ocean. The size of a back paw is 13 inches long and 9 inches wide plus claws that are more than 2 inches long. Show something that size.

Their front legs act like paddles and their back legs are like their steering wheel.

And they have serious swimming skills. They can swim for days without stopping and they're FAST! Olympic swimmers wouldn't be able to keep up! Polar bears—6 mph, Olympic swimmers—4½ mph.

Question 4**Day 1****Guess what a polar bear's favorite food is?**

Did you say seals? If you did, you're . . . right! God gave them a special liver that helps them process all the seal fat they eat, which is very helpful to them.

Question 5**Day 1****What do you think a polar bear does to cool off?**

It's amazing to think they need to cool off up there in the frigid cold, but sometimes they do! God designed them with so many amazing ways to stay warm, they actually do get overheated! So one thing they do is move slowly so they won't use too much energy. And they go swimming to cool off, just like you! Plus, they roll around in the snow.

Question 6**Day 1****When a polar bear stands on his hind legs, he's about the same height as: A) a yardstick; B) a door; C) a basketball hoop.**

The answer is a basketball hoop. He's about 10 feet tall and is the largest of bears.

Question 7**Day 1****A male polar bear is about the same weight as: A) a grand piano; B) a lawn mower; C) a refrigerator.**

It's a grand piano, weighing in at a whopping 1,000 pounds!

Question 8**Day 1**

If a kid ate just bananas for a day, he would need to eat 15 to get enough calories. A polar bear would need to eat: A) 55; B) 105; C) 155.

A polar bear would need to eat 105 bananas to get enough calories for the day!

Question 9**Day 1**

Usually polar bears stay pretty much alone, but what interesting thing do they do when they come together and feed once in awhile? A) slap paws; B) bump heads; C) sniff noses.

They sniff noses.

Question 10**Day 1**

Where do polar bears live in the wild?

Did you say in the Arctic? If you did, you're . . . right! In the wild, they don't live anywhere else, not even Antarctica. They are unique to the Arctic.

Just as the polar bear is unique to the Arctic, the Bible is unique to all books. It's the Book of books! And now let's get ready to hear from our *Operation Arctic* drama team!

Question 1**Day 2**

Faster than a speeding bullet—the Arctic hare is fast. Take a guess how fast you think it can run. Is it 20, 30, or 40 mph?

Did you say 20 mph? If you did, you're . . . wrong! They can run 40 mph. Next time you're in a car, have your mom or dad tell you when you're going 40 and imagine an Arctic hare running alongside you!

More powerful than a locomotive—those back legs are very powerful! If an Arctic hare senses danger, it first gets up on its hind legs, then bolts! It uses its very powerful back legs to hop off not like a little bunny but more like a kangaroo.

And able to leap tall buildings in a single bound—with that kangaroo-like hop, the Arctic hare can leap almost seven feet in a single bound! That's from here to here! Show the distance on stage. That's amazing for this small guy!

It's a super hare! But that's not all! God has put a lot of other cool features in this clever little animal.

Question 2**Day 2**

How about its paws? They are heavily padded with fur. Why do you think God did that?

Did you say to keep them warm? If you did, you're . . . right!

Also, it helps them not to fall through the snow. They act kind of like snowshoes and keep them up on top of the snow, just like the polar bear.

Question 3**Day 2**

Hey, time to put on my shades! Put on sunglasses. You know, God gave the Arctic hare black eyelashes that work kind of like these sunglasses. What do you think their eyelashes do for them?

Did you say shield their eyes from the sun's glare from the snow? If you did, you're . . . right! It can get very bright with the sun reflecting off the snow, so they need protection for their eyes.

And God put their eyes on the sides of their heads so they can easily see all around.

Question 4**Day 2**

What do you notice about the Arctic hare's ears compared to a normal hare?

Did you say they're big? If you did, you're . . . wrong! They're actually shorter than most hares, which helps them warm themselves better since their hearts don't have to pump blood as far.

And they often flatten them against their heads to keep heat in.

Question 5**Day 2**

But one of the most interesting things about the Arctic hare is its fur. What color do you think its fur is in summer?

Did you say white? If you did, you're . . . wrong! The Arctic hare's coat actually changes colors from season to season. In summer, it's brown and gray, but in winter, it's snowy white.

So God gave this little guy the ability to change, or transform, so it will blend in with its surroundings.

Question 2**Day 3**

What do you think that tusk really is?

Did you say a tooth? If you did, you're . . . right! They have a spiral tusk that's really a tooth!!

And . . . it can be as long as 9 feet!

And . . . males sometimes have two tusks.

And . . . it's hollow.

And . . . it's opposite of our teeth, which are hard on the outside and softer inside. The narwhal tooth is soft on the outside and harder on the inside.

And . . . it can bend a lot without cracking.

And . . . it keeps growing throughout the narwhal's whole life to replace wear and tear.

And . . . the tooth grows out of its mouth—through its lip.

And . . . this tooth is full of nerves. Narwhals can feel/sense things through their tooth

So this is one funky tooth!

The narwhal's other nickname is the corpse whale. It's called this because they swim belly side up, like they're floating around lifelessly.

And they can stop and stay motionless for a good while. It's like they're playing dead!

Question 1**Day 4**

God designed musk oxen heads with an air pocket between their brain and skull and a bony plate on top of their heads. Why do you think He gave them that?

Did you say because their brains are extra big? If you did, you're . . . wrong! God gave them a bony plate on top of their head and air pockets between their brain and skull so they wouldn't end up with brain damage when they bang into each other.

Question 1**Day 3**

First of all, do any of you have a nickname? Well, the narwhal does, too! What do you think the narwhal's nickname is? A) Oogy Boogy Boy; B) Unicorn of the North; C) Corpse Whale.

Two of those are actually right because it has two nicknames: Unicorn of the North and corpse whale. Let's talk about the first nickname, the Unicorn of the North. You can probably figure out why it would have that nickname, right? Yeah, that tusk is something!

Question 3**Day 3**

Now, guess what's great about the narwhal's skin? A) It's full of vitamin C; B) It's full of oil; C) It's full of milk.

Did you say it's full of milk? If you did, you're . . . wrong! It's actually full of vitamin C—about the same amount as oranges have.

The Inuit people tend to use a lot of narwhal skin for nutrition since oranges aren't growing on trees up there.

Question 4**Day 3**

Now, about eating. Narwhals have an unusual eating habit. Is it: A) they chew their food then spit it out; B) they only eat other narwhals; C) they suck their prey into their mouths?

Did you say the last one? If you did, you're . . . right! They don't have sharp teeth, so they swim up close to their prey then suck them into their mouths.

Of course, the narwhal spends all its life in the ocean. It lives in the Arctic Ocean amid all the moving water and shifting ice.

We couldn't live our lives in the ocean, could we? It helps us to have a solid foundation to live on, doesn't it?

Today, we talked about the spiritual base we need to build our lives on. I'm so thankful God gave us His words!

Question 2**Day 4****They have big front hooves. Why do think they need those?**

Did you say so they can break through the solid ice to find food? If you did, you're . . . right!

They don't eat meat, just plants, so they're often scratching and scraping to find berries and other plants, and the ground is either very hard or covered with ice and snow, so their strong, big hooves help them get to the food buried under there.

Question 3**Day 4**

Have you ever heard of the perfume scent called musk? Well, musk oxen give off a musky substance (that's how they got the name musk oxen!) from glands that are under their eyes. Why do you think they do that?

Did you say to get the girl? If you did, you're . . . right! Boy musk oxen give off the scent to attract the girl musk oxen. How romantic. Ahem.

Question 1**Day 5**

Compared with other animals, there can be something different about their eyes. Do you know what it is?

Did you say they can have one brown eye and one blue? If you did, you're . . . right!

God made their eyes almond-shaped so they can easily squint and keep out the snow that kicks up in their faces when they're running. God also gave them an extra eyelid! This keeps their eyes moist and protected.

Question 2**Day 5**

They cover their noses with their tails when they sleep. This movement is nicknamed: A) Nose Flow; B) Siberian Swirl; C) Musky Husky.

Did you say Musky Husky? If you did, you're . . . wrong! It's actually called the Siberian Swirl. They put their tails over their noses to keep them warm when they sleep.

Also, their noses are usually wet while they run during the day, but God designed their noses to dry up at night so they won't freeze in the cold.

Question 4**Day 4**

Ever had a bad hair day? It may seem like the musk ox's long, thick hair is messy, but it really serves a purpose. Why do you think God designed it with all that hair?

Did you say to keep them warm and toasty? If you did, you're . . . right!

The strands of fur are like a long coat that reach almost to the ground. And it's almost like they have two winter coats—an outer coat and an inner coat.

The inner coat falls out in the summer because they're actually too hot with both of those coats. Have you ever gotten overheated with too many clothes on? Well, that's what happens to them sometimes!

The inner coat is soft. It's called qiviut (KIV ee oot) and when it falls out, it's gathered and sold and used to make winter clothes. It's warm (8 times warmer than wool!) and water repellent, so it's really valuable.

But you know, back in the beginning (about 6,000 years ago), the temperatures wouldn't have been so cold in the Arctic. The land was fairly warm all over. But when the Flood happened, the land broke up and everything changed. The Flood ushered in the Ice Age. And with the Ice Age came a huge change to the climate of the earth. Now there are ice caps on the earth, which is a big reminder of the Flood. And now animals that live in extra cold places need to have extra thick hair!

And here's one last cool thing about musk oxen. For protection, they gather in a big circle with their heads facing out and their young in the middle to protect them. They sure do care for their young!

Question 3**Day 5**

Maybe the most unusual thing God gave huskies is this: A) they like to eat whales; B) they turn blue when they're cold; C) they don't really get tired.

Did you say they don't really get tired?

If you did, you're . . . right!

After we've exercised hard, we feel tired. But when huskies exercise, it's almost like a switch is flipped in their body and this thing called metabolism is changed, so they don't get really tired.

This means they're high-energy and born to run. That's what makes them so good for pulling dogsleds!

And they're also great at pulling dogsleds because they love to explore.

They've been part of many great Arctic explorations. They've helped countless people survive and even explore further and further north.

They're able to pull great amounts of stuff on dogsleds. Each dog can pull its weight, which averages about 55 pounds.

And listen to this! Big dogsled teams of 200 or more dogs have been able to pull buses or even help move houses!

Another thing they love to do with their energy and excitement is race.

Question 4**Day 5**

There's one famous dogsled race that happens every year in Alaska. It's called: A) the Iditarod; B) the ACE Race; C) the Yukon Run.

Did you say the Iditarod? If you did, you're . . . right!

The Iditarod has 16 dogs on each dogsled team. They aren't always Siberian Huskies—sometimes they're other types of dogs, but huskies are a favorite.

Each team of 16 travels over 1,000 miles through often fierce weather during an Iditarod race.

The Iditarod is run in remembrance of a true event that happened back in 1925 when a diphtheria epidemic happened in Nome, Alaska. Dogsled teams raced from Anchorage to Nome to deliver life-saving medicine. If you've ever seen the movie *Balto*, then you know the general idea of what happened.

These dogs can be on the Iditarod race for 10 days or more, but they don't complain.

They're always excited and eager to go.

With their excitement and love for exploring and the huge amount of energy they put into it, they're a great reminder to us to love exploring, too—particularly exploring the Bible! We want to learn it, love it, and live it.