

## ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS RESEARCH

### **Overview:**

The learners will become familiar with the various habitats in the Arctic and Antarctic. They will explore the animal adaptations specific to these habitats.

### **What You Need:**

- Books on the animals of the Arctic and Antarctic
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Project Research Form (included)

### **Teaching Strategy:**

- Refer to the background information on animals of the Arctic and Antarctic. Discuss the concept of adaptation with the learners. Use pictures whenever possible to provide examples.
- Discuss various human adaptations such as the opposable thumb, primarily hairless bodies because of clothing, flat molars and rough edged biting teeth used for eating both animal and plant matter.

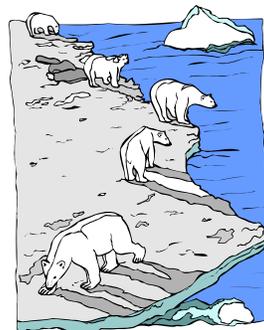
### **What to Do:**

- Display and discuss a list of the various animals in these two regions.
- Let each learner choose an animal to research. (Make sure that both regions are represented by a variety of animals.)
- Have each learner research the selected animal and fill in the information on the accompanying report form (or use a large display size paper).

- Have learners draw a small map of the region where their animals live.
- Have the learners draw a detailed picture of their animals.
- Learners should share their research with their classmates.
- After completing the project research form, learners should create an individual project to accompany their research. Learners may consider the following as options for their project: a play or skit, puppet show, diorama, animal carving, Discovery Channel-style documentary, learner created software, an educational stuffed animal, a picture book for younger children, a species newspaper, etc.
- Provide time and materials for learners to create individual projects. After completing projects, learners should share their work with their community or parents.

### **Extensions:**

- Read myths, legends, and stories that involve animals in the Arctic and Antarctic.
- Create a myth explaining a specific animal adaptation in the style of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. (For example, tell how the polar bear got his black skin beneath his white fur.)
- Take a field trip to the zoo to observe arctic and antarctic animals. Create field notes and drawings.



*Project Research Form About* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the animal here. Label specific adaptations.

Draw a map of the region where this animal lives. Include key elements of the habitat.

