

Winter Survival: Caribou

In this lesson, students will explore how caribou survive the harsh winter months by migrating to warmer regions to locate food sources and protect their young.

Grades: K-3	Subject: Science
Essential Question(s)	How do caribou adapt to survive the challenges of winter? What role does migration play in the survival of caribou during the winter season?
Focus Standard(s)	K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive. 1-LS1-2. Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive. 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. 3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive. 3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to understand the various survival strategies of caribou during winter, including migration, food sources, and protection of offspring.
Materials/Resources	Winter Survival: Caribou Level 1 Winter Survival: Caribou Level 2 Caribou Cloze Maze Reading Activity
Vocabulary	Herbivore: animal that only eats plants and not meat; predators: animals that hunt other animals for food; habitat: home; area where animals live; routes: paths
Anticipatory Set	Begin by playing the short video clip accompanying the article. Ask students if they've ever heard of caribou or perhaps they're more familiar with the term reindeer. Display the images and maps from the Slide Show and discuss where in the world caribou are located.
Guided Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre Teach vocabulary words prior to reading the article • Read the first four paragraphs of the article aloud. Ask students what problems do some animals have in winter? (not enough food; too cold) Then ask students how do caribou survive in the winter? (They migrate south to warmer areas.) • Ask students to think of another reason why caribou migrate in the winter. Invite them to continue reading the article with a partner in order to locate the answer. (protect their young)
Independent Activity	After students finish reading the article, have them complete the student activity sheet (Caribou Cloze Maze Reading Activity). Students should read the passage and fill in the missing words using a word from the word bank.
Closure/Assessment	Review key points about how and why some animals, such as caribou, survive in the winter. (migration and to find food and protect their young) After reviewing, have students complete the quiz questions found in the article's engagement toolbar.
Differentiation	Adjust lexile levels as needed; use accessibility tools and Read-to-Me feature as needed; print copies of article

Name: _____

Caribou Cloze Maze Reading Activity

Directions: Read the passage. Fill in the missing blanks with a word from the word bank. Each word will only be used one time.

Word Bank					
sunlight	deer	south	migrate	danger	habitats

Winter can be hard for animals. There is less _____. It is difficult to stay warm in the cold. But animals like caribou have ways to stay safe.

Caribou are special _____ that live in cold places like Canada and Alaska. They also live in northern Europe. That is where people call them reindeer.

No matter what they are called, caribou are amazing animals. They travel a really long way in winter to stay safe. They migrate _____ to warmer places to find food and escape the cold. Another reason they _____ is to protect their babies from predators.

Sadly, caribou are in _____. Their population is dropping. One reason is because they're losing their _____. People are trying to protect the caribou. They want to make sure these animals can continue their journey for a long time.

Answer Key

Caribou Cloze Maze Reading Activity

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Word Bank					
sunlight	deer	south	migrate	danger	habitats

Winter can be hard for animals. There is less sunlight. It is difficult to stay warm in the cold. But animals like caribou have ways to stay safe.

Caribou are special deer that live in cold places like Canada and Alaska. They also live in northern Europe. That is where people call them reindeer.

No matter what they are called, caribou are amazing animals. They travel a really long way in winter to stay safe. They migrate south to warmer places to find food and escape the cold. Another reason they migrate is to protect their babies from predators.

Sadly, caribou are in danger. Their population is dropping. One reason is because they're losing their habitats. People are trying to protect the caribou. They want to make sure these animals can continue their journey for a long time.