



Just For Kids



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ARCTIC!



AN ARCTIC CAST OF CHARACTERS

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is home to a unique cast of wild characters adapted to live in a extreme cold and icy conditions. Let's meet a few of them.



Musk Oxen,
Inupiat Eskimos call this arctic dweller oomingmak (oo-ming-mak) meaning "animal with skin like a beard." In English this horned grazer is called a musk ox.



Polar Bears
have black skin to soak up as much of the sun's rays as possible. Their fur is almost transparent and appears white due to the reflection of sunlight.



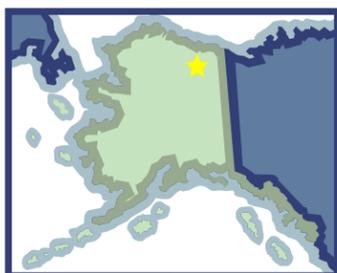
Arctic Ground Squirrel
During hibernation the body temperature of these "tsik-tsik" rodents drops to 26.4 Degrees Fahrenheit, that is below freezing!



The Arctic Fox
changes color with the season to blend in with the changing tundra ground cover (brown in summer, white in winter).



FIND THAT BIRD!



Each summer, birds use Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to nest, raise young and feed before they migrate south for the winter. The refuge is located in north east Alaska, the United States' 49th and largest state and birds. Some of these birds may visit your state on their fall migration or spend their winter on a refuge near you.

Using the clues below, match the arctic bird to its winter home.



FLORIDA



Snowy Owl

Made famous by Harry Potter's Hedwig, this ghost-like owl flies to "The land of a thousand lakes" each winter.



MINNESOTA



Sandhill Crane

Thousands of these rust-stained birds flock to this southwest state every winter to feed at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.



NEW MEXICO



Peregrine Falcon

This aerial predator has the greatest migration of these arctic birds from cliffs of the Arctic refuge to this "handle" shaped state on the Gulf of Mexico.

