

ANIMAL ANATOMY INSERT
BACK

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WHAT IS A PREDATOR?

A predator is an animal that catches and kills other animals for food. Here are some of their common traits.



Good eyesight helps them spot prey from a distance, or even in the dark.



Keen senses let them smell or hear hidden or faraway animals.



Sharp teeth and strong jaws bite through flesh and bone.



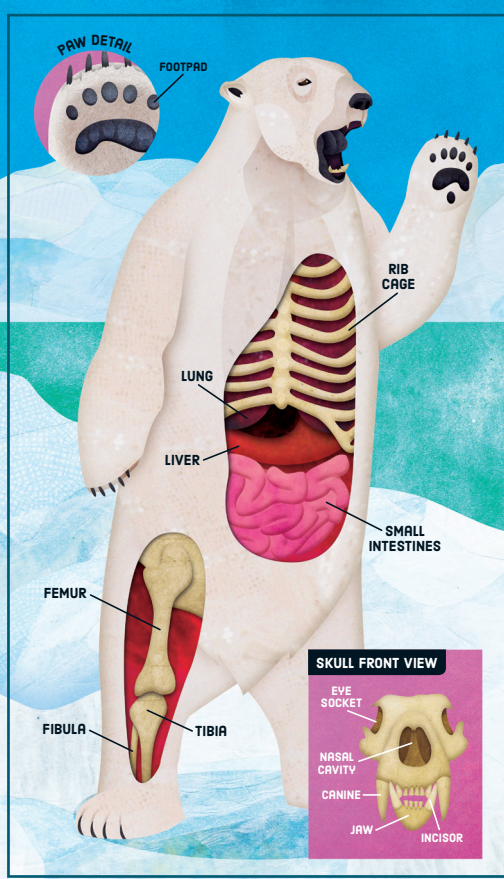
Strength and speed help them outrun and overpower their prey.

SCIENCE PUZZLE SET

ANIMAL ANATOMY
FACT SHEET

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POLAR BEAR

- For a non-slip grip on ice, polar bears have wide paws with short, thick claws and footpads covered in soft bumps called papillae.
- Surprise: A polar bear isn't white at all! These bears have black skin with fur made up of hollow, transparent hairs, which makes them appear cream colored.
- A sharp sense of smell helps a polar bear navigate its extreme habitat. It can sniff out a meal up to a mile (1.6 km) away or buried in 3 feet (1 m) of snow.
- To hunt, a polar bear waits by holes in sea ice. When a seal surfaces, the bear bites its head, using its long canine teeth to drag the seal out of the water and snap its skull.



BENGAL TIGER

- Since most of the Bengal tiger's prey is red-green colorblind, its orange fur is tough to spot in long grass and trees. Its stripes also camouflage it by breaking up its body shape.
- Tigers are digitigrade and walk on their toes. To keep its claws razor sharp, a tiger retracts them into its paws. When the tiger flexes, an elastic tendon pushes the claws out.
- A tiger's eyes are perfect for prowling in the dark: Wide, round pupils and extra light-detecting receptor cells give it night vision about six times better than a human's.
- A hungry Bengal tiger can devour up to 60 pounds (27 kg) of meat in a single meal.



GREAT WHITE SHARK

- A great white shark has about 300 serrated teeth in its mouth. As the shark bites and shakes its prey, the serrations cut through flesh like mini saws.
- Most of a great white shark's skeleton is made of rubbery cartilage. But in its vertebrae, hard minerals build up to form growth rings, which can show how old the shark is.
- The electroreceptors in a great white's snout sense tiny electrical pulses from moving prey—even ones hiding in sand.
- The spiral valve is a part of a shark's lower intestine that's coiled into a corkscrew. The twists help the shark absorb nutrients from its diet of fish, rays, and sea mammals.