List of Arctic Animals

- **Phytoplankton** – These drifting organisms live near the surface of the water. They make their own food through photosynthesis.
- **Zooplankton, including krill, jellyfish, baby clams and crabs** – Drifting animals that live in the water column, they feed on phytoplankton and smaller zooplankton.
- **Polychaetes** – These are marine worms with bristles that live on the ocean floor. Polychaetes filter feed plankton from the water to obtain their food.
- **Urchins** – A group of spineless animals that live on the seabed. Urchins eat seaweed.
- **Mollusks** – A diverse group of animals that includes snails, octopi, squid, clams, abalone, mussels, scallops, etc. Mollusks eat a variety of organisms (see below).
- **Cephalopods** – A sub-group of mollusks that includes octopi and squid. They live on the ocean floor, swim through the water and feed on tiny animals (mostly invertebrates).
- **Bivalves** – A sub-group of mollusks that includes clams, mussels, scallops and oysters. Bivalves live on the ocean floor and feed on plankton (they are filter feeders).
- **Gastropods** – A sub-group of mollusks, including snails, nudibranchs and abalone. Gastropods live on rocks and other substrates, usually feeding on algae and sponges.
- **Barnacles** – These animals attach themselves to rocks, whales, barrels and other substrates. Barnacles eat plankton by filter feeding.
- **Crustaceans** – This group of animals includes crab, shrimp and lobster. Crustaceans live on the ocean floor. Many are carnivores and scavengers.
- **Arctic Cod** – A fish species that lives in ocean waters at the edge of ice floes, where it feeds on smaller fish, phytoplankton and, once older, crabs and mollusks.
- **Capelin** – A fish species that lives in the water column, where it feeds on phytoplankton, krill and other zooplankton at the edge of the ice shelf.
- **Herring** – A fish species that lives in the water column, feeding on phytoplankton when young and on zooplankton when larger.
- **Thick-billed Murre** (also known as **Brunnich’s guillemot**) – A bird species that spends the summer in colonies located on cliffs throughout the Arctic. Thick-billed Murres feed on Arctic Cod, Capelin and other fish, as well as zooplankton.
- **Ivory Gull** – A seagull that nests on cliffs or exposed rocky areas (called nunataqs) in the high Arctic in the summer, wintering at the edge of the pack ice. Ivory Gulls scavenge whatever polar bears leave behind after killing their prey.
- **Glaucous Gull** – A seagull that inhabits cold bays and coastal areas throughout the northern regions of North America. They feed on small fish, bird eggs, garbage, insects and small aquatic invertebrates.
- **Black Guillemot** – A seabird species that lives along rocky shores and islands. They feed mainly on fish and some invertebrates such as barnacles and sponges.
- **Little Auk** (also known as the **Dovekie**) – A seabird species that breeds in colonies on cliffs in the high Arctic in the summer and throughout the Atlantic on drifting ice. They feed on fish and plankton
- **Kittiwake** – A bird species that breeds on cliffs in the Arctic. They feed on small fish and krill.
- **Eider ducks** – A sea duck that nests on the tundra in the summer, with some living on polynyas in the winter. Their diverse diet includes urchins and bivalves from the bottom of polynyas.
- **Fulmar** – Nesting on rocky cliffs in the far north of the Arctic, Fulmars feed on fish, crustaceans, jellyfish and squid.
- **Arctic tern** – A bird species that nests along Arctic coasts in the tundra each summer. Arctic terns eat insects, aquatic invertebrates and small fish.
- **Polar Bears** – Large marine mammals, Polar Bears live on the winter pack ice where they hunt for seals, their primary food source.
- **Walrus** – These marine mammals live on the ice, where they dive for clams.
- **Ringed Seals** – Living on or near the ice floe in the Arctic, these marine mammals feed on Arctic cod, herring and other fish.
- **Harp Seals** – Living on pack ice, these marine mammals eat a variety of fish and invertebrates.
- **Spotted Seals** – This marine mammal is found along the southern edges of pack ice in the northern hemisphere. Spotted Seals feed on fish and invertebrates.
- **Narwhals** – Tusk-bearing whales, Narwhals live near densely packed ice floes in the winter, moving closer to shore to feed in the summer. They eat fish like cod and halibut, but have been known to prey on baby seals when food is limited.
- **Orca** – These charismatic marine mammals are found in all the world’s oceans, including the Arctic. Orcas eat fish, invertebrates, and other marine mammals.
- **Beluga** – These white whales live amongst pack ice in the winter and shallow bays and estuaries in the summer. Belugas feed on fish and forage on the seafloor for crustaceans (crabs and shrimp) and cephalopods (squid and octopi).
- **Arctic Fox** – A mammal that lives on the tundra. It feeds on seabirds and other animals.