# [Arctic Fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/arctic-fox/" \o "Arctic Fox):

# The Arctic [Fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) is a small white [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) native to the Arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere. The Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) is commonly found in the colder parts of [Canada](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/north-america/canada/), Alaska, Northern [Asia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/asia/) and [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/). The Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) is also commonly known as the Snow [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) or the White [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) due to the fact that the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) has white fur and spends a great deal of time in the cold snow. The Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) has extremely thick winter fur, which is apparently the warmest fur of all the [mammals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-mammal). The thick fur of the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) is definitely an essential for the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) to continue dwelling successfully in the harsh Arctic terrain where [temperatures](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-temperature) regularly fall below minus 40 degrees Celsius. The Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) tends to [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) on [lemmings](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/lemming/), [hares](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/hare/), [reptiles](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-reptile), amphibians and occasionally [vulnerable](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/vulnerable/) [seal](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/seal/) pups that are not close to their herd. The Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) makes its den far under the surface of the ground, and can amazingly withstand [temperatures](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-temperature) of up to minus 50 degrees Celsius. As with many [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) that inhabit the Arctic regions, the fur of the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) changes [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-colour) to adapt to its surroundings accordingly. In the winter, the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) has thick, white fur which allows the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) to remain warm and camouflaged in its snowy surroundings. In the summer months, the fur of the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) changes to a brown [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-colour) as there the snow will have melted. This newly coloured brown fur of the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/), allows the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) to remain as inconspicuous as possible whilst there is no snow in the Arctic during the summer months. As one of the larger [carnivores](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-carnivore) in the Arctic Circle, the Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) has few natural [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) within its freezing [environment](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-environment). [Polar bears](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/polar-bear/), [wolf](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/wolf/) packs and [humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) are only real [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the adult Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/), along with large [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) of [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) such as [snowy owls](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/snowy-owl/), that primarily [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) on the smaller and more [vulnerable](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/vulnerable/) Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) cubs. The female Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) gives birth to and raises her cubs in the safety of her den, which is a network of tunnels often underground. After a [gestation period](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-gestation-period) of a couple of months, the female Arctic [fox](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fox/) gives birth to up to 15 cubs which are born at the start of summer and after being nursed by their mother, are fairly independent by the time the Arctic winter starts again.

# Arctic Fox Facts:

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| [**Kingdom**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom)**:** | Animalia |
| [**Phylum**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum)**:** | Chordata |
| [**Class**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class)**:** | Mammalia |
| [**Order**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order)**:** | Carnivora |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Canidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Alopex |
|  | |
| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Alopex Lagopus |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Carnivore |
| [**Size (L)**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 70cm - 110cm (28in - 43in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 1.4kg - 9.4kg (3lbs - 21lbs) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 45km/h (30mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 7 - 10 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Solitary |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Least Concern |
|  | |
| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | White, Black, Grey |
| [**Skin Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type)**:** | Fur |
| [**Favourite Food**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food)**:** | Lemmings |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Polar forest regions |
| [**Average Litter Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size)**:** | 5 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Lemmings, Berries, Insects |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Snowy Owl, Wolf, Polar Bear |
| [**Distinctive Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Thick fur that changes colour with season |