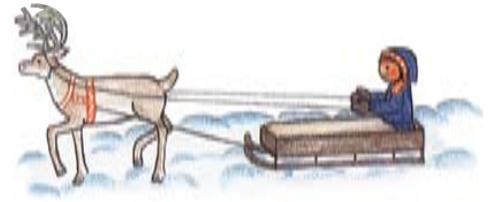


# Reindeer in the Arctic



Reindeer are semi-domesticated animals that live in arctic and sub-arctic climates in Scandinavia, Russia, parts of Eurasia, Alaska and Canada. In North America, their wild cousins are called caribou. Semi-domesticated reindeer differ from their wild cousins in several ways. Their hooves are broader and more flexible making it easier for them to walk on deep snow in winter and on mosses and soft ground in the spring and summer months. Reindeer are shorter, stouter and are usually lighter in color than caribou and their faces are flatter.

Reindeer are herd animals and tend to stay in cohesive groups. When herded, they run in a tight group, where caribou will scatter. When threatened, their first response is to run away. If there is a nearby slope, they will usually run uphill. Both reindeer bulls and cows have antlers. They are the only species in the deer family where the females have antlers.

When a calf is too weak to run and needs protection, reindeer cows will form a circle around the calf with their horns pointing to the outside of the circle to ward off predators. Reindeer milk is extremely high in protein and fat which helps their calves survive their cold, harsh climate. This rich



milk and their large internal organs allow young reindeer to grow very rapidly which enhances their survival rate. Adult reindeer feed primarily on lichen. They also eat fungi, berries and young tree roots.

Reindeer hair is very dense. Their outer coat has long, hollow guard hairs which help

make reindeer very buoyant when swimming. They also have a thick woolly undercoat that keeps them warm. This thick undercoat insulates them so well that it traps their body heat in and allows them to lay in the snow without melting it and getting wet. Their noses are broad and the inside is like a "rolled scroll". The increased surface area warms the cold incoming air.

The Sami people of Lapland have herded reindeer for centuries. They are raised for their milk, meat, hides, antlers and for pulling sleds and carrying heavy loads.

*As the publisher of the award-winning Draw•Write•Now® series of books, Carolyn Hurst has spent the last decade researching how children learn to draw and the benefits of teaching directed-drawing. Carolyn, her husband Steve, and their two children, Natalie and Evan share their Poulsbo, WA farm with three dogs, a cat, two pygmy goats, five horses and a rooster named Napoleon.*

## Teaching Tip



Auroras shift and move in the nighttime sky. How can you make your sky look active?



1. Lightly draw a line of action.

2. Cross the line of action with color (zigzag lines are active).

3. Add more colors. Overlap the edges.

4. Color the rest of the night sky. Overlap the aurora's edges.

# Reindeer

