



Year 6: Evolution and Inheritance

HOW ARE ANIMALS AND PLANTS
ADAPTED TO SUIT THEIR
ENVIRONMENT AND HOW MAY
THIS LEAD TO EVOLUTION?

Photo: Alan Levine



How Are Cacti Adapted To A Desert Environment?

Spines instead of leaves - minimise surface area and so reduce water lost by evaporation

Spines protect cacti from animals that might eat them

Stems that can store water

Widespread root systems that collect water from a large area

Giraffe Adaptations

Tough lips to help protect against spiny thorns in acacia trees

Long necks used to reach leaves in tall acacia trees

Camouflaged coat with patches of different sizes and colours help giraffes hide in the African savanna

Fringed tail keeps flies and other pests away

A tough hoof protects each foot

Long tongue helps strip leaves off trees and manoeuvre around acacia thorns

Strong shoulders and muscles to help with long neck

Complex heart and cardiovascular system so that blood doesn't rush to brain as they bend to drink

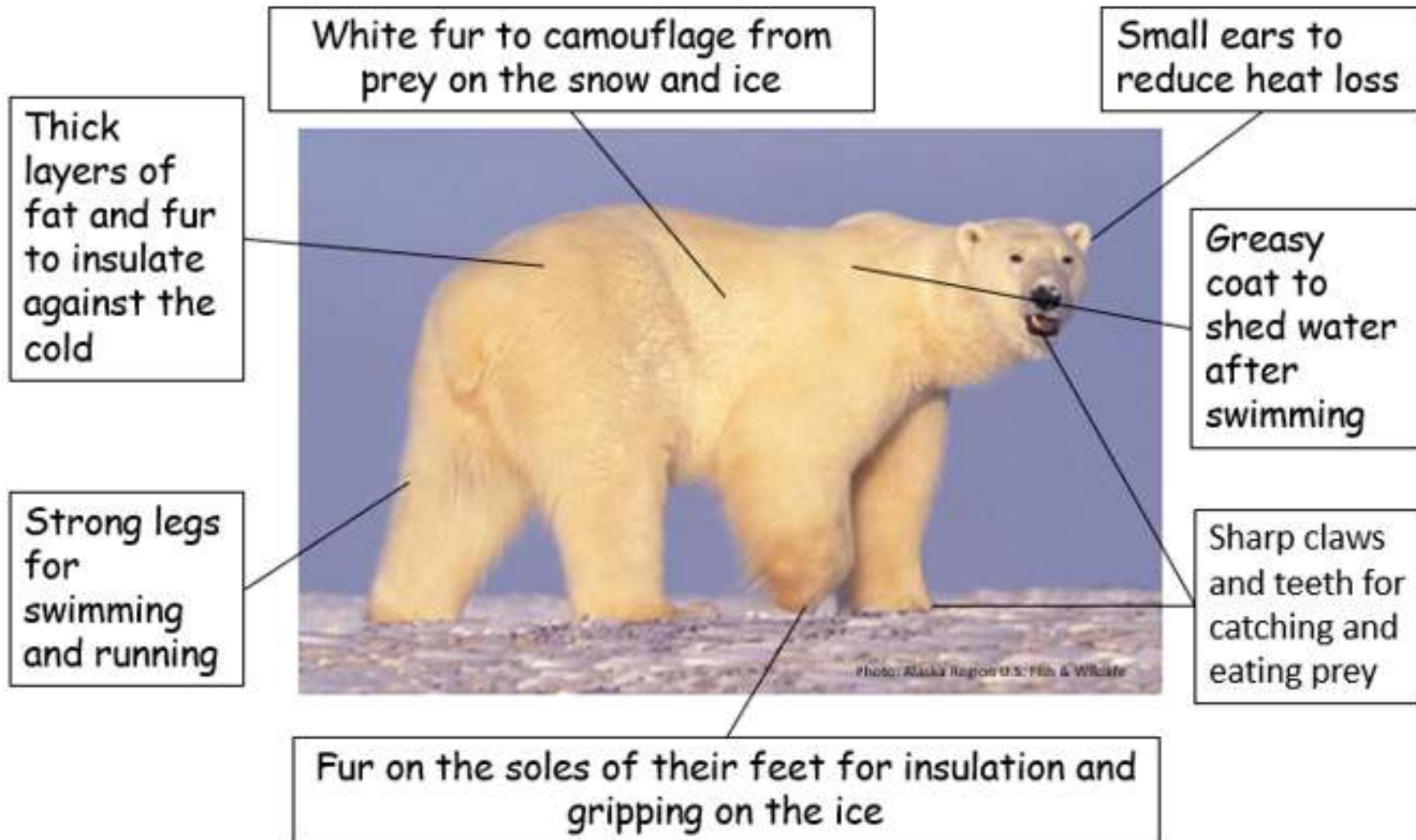
Front legs longer than hind legs making it easier to reach tall leaves



Photo: Paret

Giraffes manage for long periods of time without water. This keeps them safer as they have to assume an awkward position to drink, making them vulnerable to predators.

How Are Polar Bears Adapted To An Arctic Environment?



How Are Camels Adapted To A Desert Environment?

