



Dashing through the snow, you might catch a glimpse of the majestic caribou! Caribous are large, powerful animals that look a lot like what you might imagine if a deer went to the gym and grew a fancy set of antlers. They're covered in a thick coat to keep them warm in the icy cold environments where they live, and their color can range from dark brown to almost white. One of the coolest things about caribou is that both males and females grow antlers, unlike other deer species where only the boys get to show off their headgear.



Speaking of where caribou live, have you ever wondered about their home? Caribou are native to the Arctic, Subarctic, tundra, boreal, and mountainous regions of northern North America, Siberia, and Europe. They are experts at surviving in cold climates and they love to munch on lichens, the small plants that grow in these icy lands. During the warmer seasons, they also eat leaves, flowers, and mushrooms.

Like us humans, caribou go through different stages in their life. A caribou's life begins when it's born in the spring, usually in May or June. By the time winter rolls around, caribou calves are all grown up and ready to face the harsh weather. They can live up to 15 years in the wild, which is pretty old for a large animal!

Caribou are not just important to the ecosystem, but they also have a special relationship with humans and other animals. To many indigenous peoples, caribou are a source of food, clothing, and tools, and they play a significant role in their culture and spirituality. As for other animals, wolves and bears are their main predators, but caribou can outrun them with their fast and efficient gallop. Isn't it amazing how all these connections come together in the life of a caribou?





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do caribou love to munch on in icy lands?
 - A. Berries and fruits
 - B. Bark and twigs
 - C. Nuts and seeds
 - D. Lichens

- 2) When are caribou usually born?
 - A. In the winter, usually in December or January.
 - B. In the summer, usually in July or August.
 - C. In the spring, usually in May or June.
 - D. In the fall, usually in September or October.

- 3) What color can the coat of a caribou be?
 - A. Only white.
 - B. Only light brown.
 - C. Only dark brown.
 - D. From dark brown to almost white.

- 4) What do caribou like to eat during warmer seasons?
 - A. Grass, seeds, and berries
 - B. Leaves, flowers, and mushrooms
 - C. Fruits, nuts, and insects
 - D. Fish, plants, and small mammals

- 5) What is the relationship between caribou and indigenous peoples?
 - A. They are pets for some tribes.
 - B. They are a source of food, clothing, and tools.
 - C. There is no relationship between them.
 - D. They are a source of entertainment.

- 6) How old can caribou live up to in the wild?
 - A. 15 years
 - B. 5 years
 - C. 20 years
 - D. 10 years

- 7) Can caribou outrun their main predators?
 - A. They do not have any predators.
 - B. No, they are too slow to outrun them.
 - C. Yes, they can outrun them.
 - D. They hide from them instead of outrunning them.

- 8) Who are the main predators of caribou?
 - A. Snakes and crocodiles
 - B. Wolves and bears
 - C. Lions and tigers
 - D. Eagles and hawks

- 9) What is unusual about caribou antlers compared to other deer species?
 - A. Both males and females grow antlers
 - B. They are always white
 - C. They fall off every month
 - D. They shine in the dark

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 10) "We caribou are usually born in the springtime."
- 11) "When winter arrives, we caribous hibernate like bears."



- 12) "We look different from deer as both males and females of our species have my grand and majestic antlers."
- 13) "Our favorite delicacy is the juicy, water-packed cacti."
- 14) "Our antlers help us with fighting!"
- 15) "We feast primarily on fish during warm summer days."
- 16) "We only eat during the winter, and we starve the rest of the year."
- 17) "Our main predators are eagles and hawks."
- 18) "Wolves and bears might be our enemies but with our super fast running skills, we can escape them."
- 19) "We can live as long as 30 years in the wild."
- 20) "We spend our whole lives in the warm tropical jungles."
- 21) "You might be surprised, but we're desert creatures, thriving best in warm environments."
- 22) "I can change my fur color on command, like a chameleon, to hide from predators."
- 23) "We love to snack on leaves, flowers, and mushrooms in the warmer months. Yum!"

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 24) Caribou calves can live up to 15 years in the wild.
- 25) The sound of caribou hooves on snow is one of the most beautiful noises in nature.
- 26) A caribou's life starts when it's born usually in late spring months like May or June.
- 27) It is amazing how caribou can live up to 15 years in the wild, surviving harsh winters.
- 28) Both male and female caribous grow antlers.
- 29) The way caribou blend in with their environment during winter, from dark brown to almost white, is really cool.
- 30) In winter, when food is scarce, caribou primarily eat lichens, a small plant that grows in cold environments.
- 31) Caribous usually live in cold regions like the Arctic, Subarctic, and mountainous regions.
- 32) The fact that both male and female caribou grow antlers is really interesting.
- 33) The idea of caribou running and evading their predators with their fast and elegant gallop is amazing.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) Most caribou's life begins in the spring.
- 35) Caribou can only run at a slow gallop.
- 36) Caribou can live up to 15 years.
- 37) Caribous only grow antlers if they are male.
- 38) Caribous are native to the Arctic region.
- 39) Caribou live on the grassy plains of East Africa.
- 40) Caribou do not have any predators.
- 41) Caribou can only live up to 5 years in the wild.
- 42) Caribou love to munch on lichens.



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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

44) Caribous are herbivores and mainly eat grasses, sedges, and lichens.

45) Do caribous have antlers?

46) Caribous rely on their sense of smell to detect predators such as wolves and bears.

47) Caribous migrate long distances to find food and avoid predators.

48) What do caribous eat?

49) What do caribous look like?



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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> opinion </u> |
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| 4. <u> B </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> |
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| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> |
| 9. <u> A </u> | 34. <u> true </u> |
| 10. <u> true </u> | 35. <u> false </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> true </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> false </u> |
| 13. <u> false </u> | 38. <u> true </u> |
| 14. <u> true </u> | 39. <u> false </u> |
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| 17. <u> false </u> | 42. <u> true </u> |
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| 20. <u> false </u> | 45. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> declarative </u> |
| 22. <u> false </u> | 47. <u> declarative </u> |
| 23. <u> true </u> | 48. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 24. <u> fact </u> | 49. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 25. <u> opinion </u> | |

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What do caribou love to munch on in icy lands? (paragraph 2)
A. _____ B. Bark and twigs
C. _____ D. Lichens
- 2) When are caribou usually born? (paragraph 3)
A. _____ B. In the summer, usually in July or August.
C. In the spring, usually in May or June. D. _____
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