

Brrr...It's Cold Out There!

An activity of "Reaching into the past to save the future"

Read "Reaching into the past to save the future" (page 9, *What's Up* February 2021). Then, work in pairs to complete the following. Most of the answers can be found in the article. You may also search the internet.

1. Fill in the gaps with information from the article to discover more about the tundra.

The tundra gets its name from the Finnish word *tunturi* which means treeless plain. There are no big **(a)** _____ because their deep roots cannot pierce the thick, hard icy layer called the **(b)** _____ beneath the thin layer of top **(c)** _____. Besides, the **(d)** _____ is up for only 6 to 10 weeks in a year. The rest of year is dark and the temperature can go as low as **(e)** _____. In spite of these harsh conditions, a number of plants and **(f)** _____ live there.

2. In the tables below, unscramble the words in the left columns to discover the countries and regions where tundra ecosystems are found, and the animals that live there. Write them under the respective columns on the right of each table. Work in pairs.

| Countries / Regions | | |
|---------------------|--------|--|
| a. | rAitcc | |
| b. | slaAka | |
| c. | dnaaaC | |
| d. | assRiu | |

| Countries / Regions | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| e. | ernnGlaed | |
| f. | aelnIdc | |
| g. | dvaniiancSa | |
| h. | aicaActrnt | |

| Mammals | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| a. | ierdreen | |
| b. | lmeginm | |
| c. | lprao eabr | |
| d. | rwlvnnoeei | |

| Mammals | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| e. | edr ofx | |
| f. | mkus xo | |
| g. | borwn rbea | |
| h. | fowl | |

| Birds | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| a. | owsyn low | |
| b. | rntiaagmp | |
| c. | unnpgie | |
| d. | owns oogse | |
| e. | erjaeg | |

| Insects | | |
|---------|-------------|--|
| a. | sdiper | |
| b. | gearsrphsop | |
| c. | qsmiotou | |
| d. | kclba lfy | |

3. Think about this. It is a wonder to behold how nature has equipped flora and fauna to adapt and live in the tundra under such harsh conditions. Now, global warming is threatening this delicate balance. Are we doing enough to save the planet? Share your thoughts with your partner.