

ALASKA ACTIVITY PACKET

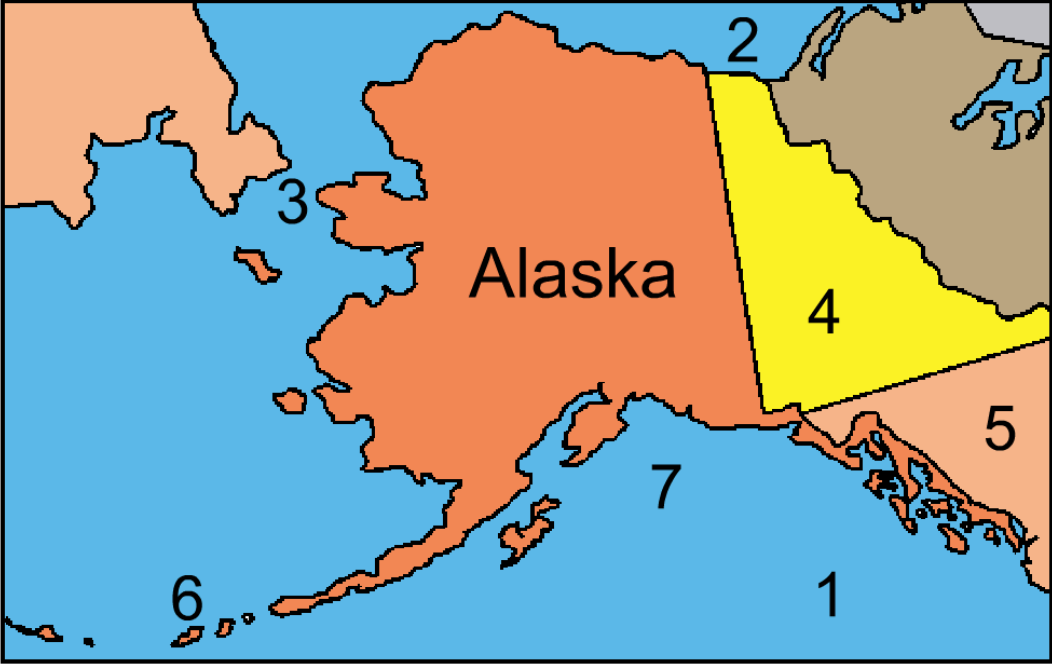


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Alaska Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water



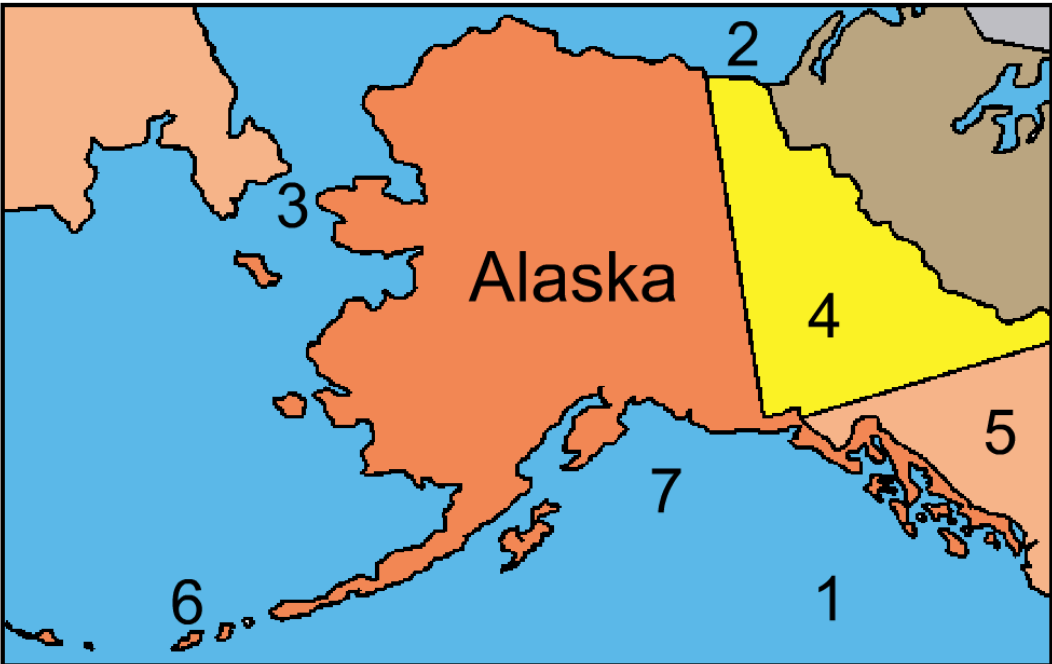
Alaska Labels

Arctic Ocean
Aleutian Islands
Yukon Territory
Gulf of Alaska
Bering Strait
Pacific Ocean
British Columbia

Labels:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Alaska Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water

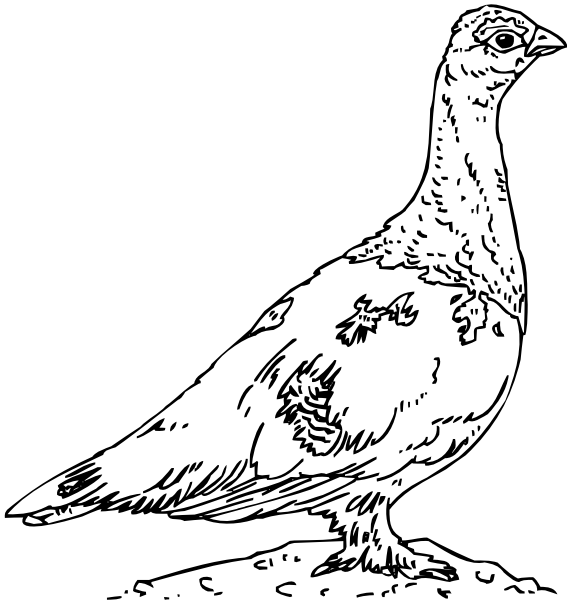


Alaska Labels

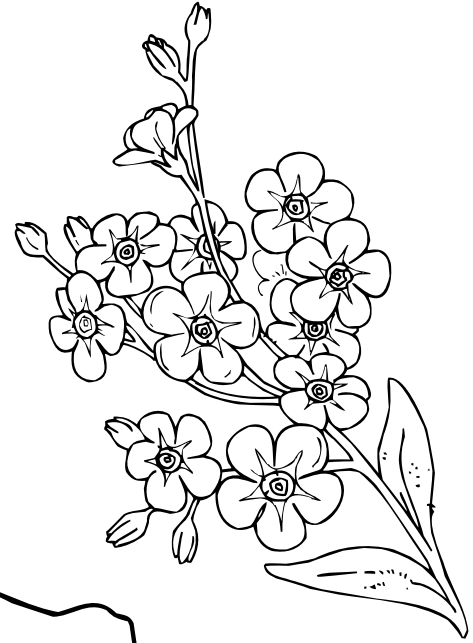
Arctic Ocean
Aleutian Islands
Yukon Territory
Gulf of Alaska
Bering Strait
Pacific Ocean
British Columbia

Labels:

1. Pacific Ocean
2. Arctic Ocean
3. Bering Strait
4. Yukon Territory (Canada)
5. British Columbia (Canada)
6. Aleutian Islands
7. Gulf of Alaska



Willow Ptarmigan



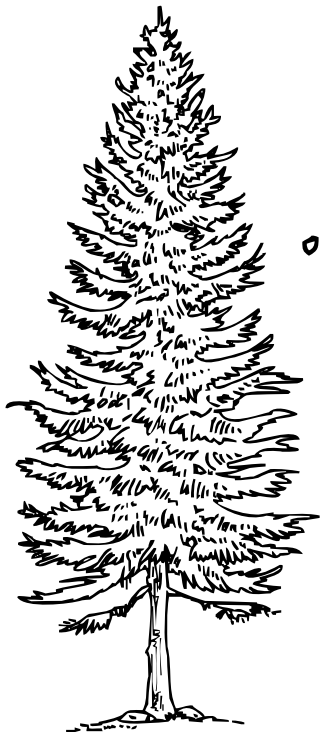
*Alpine
Forget-me-not*



Juneau

The Last Frontier

State license plate



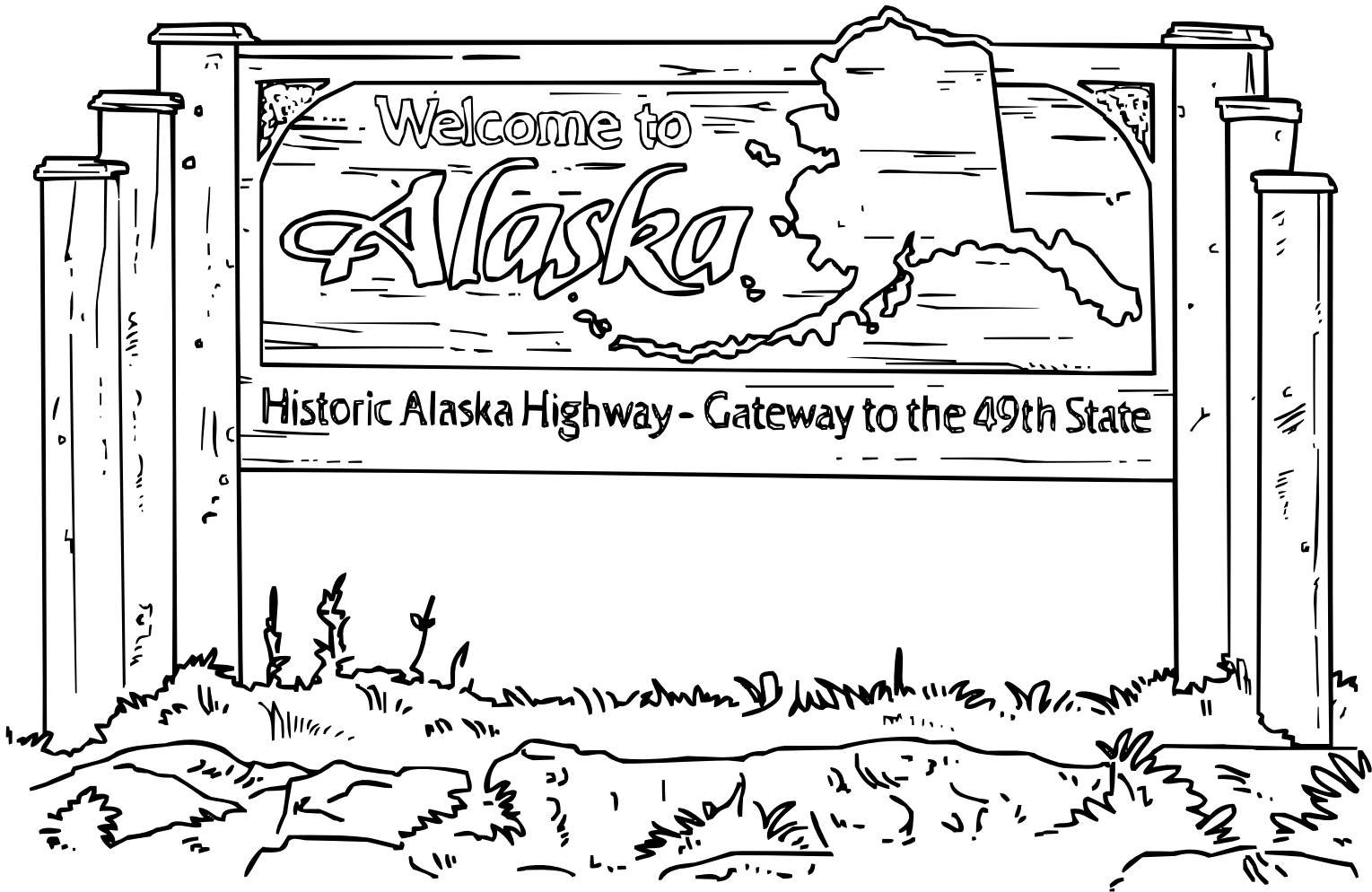
Sitka Spruce



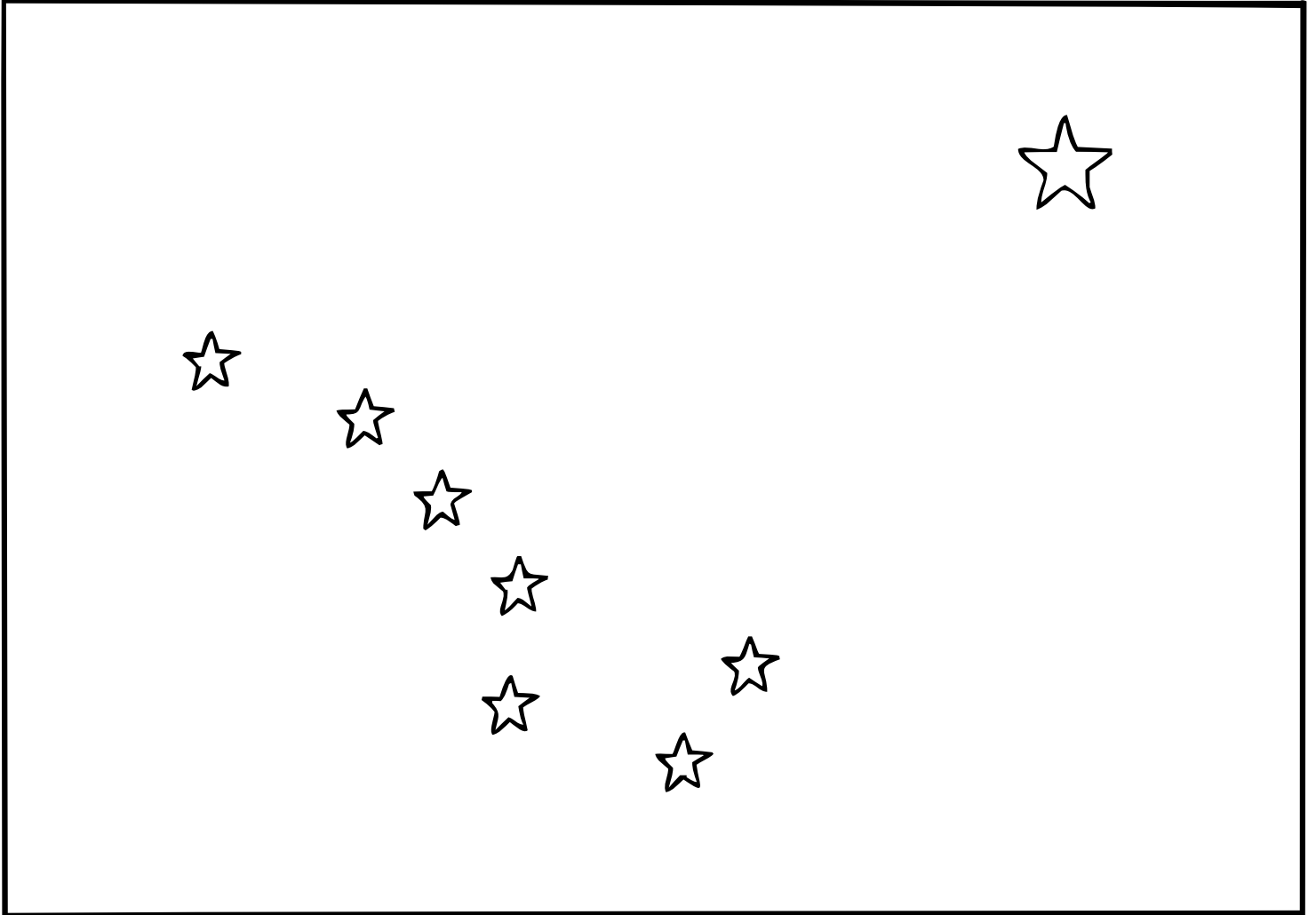
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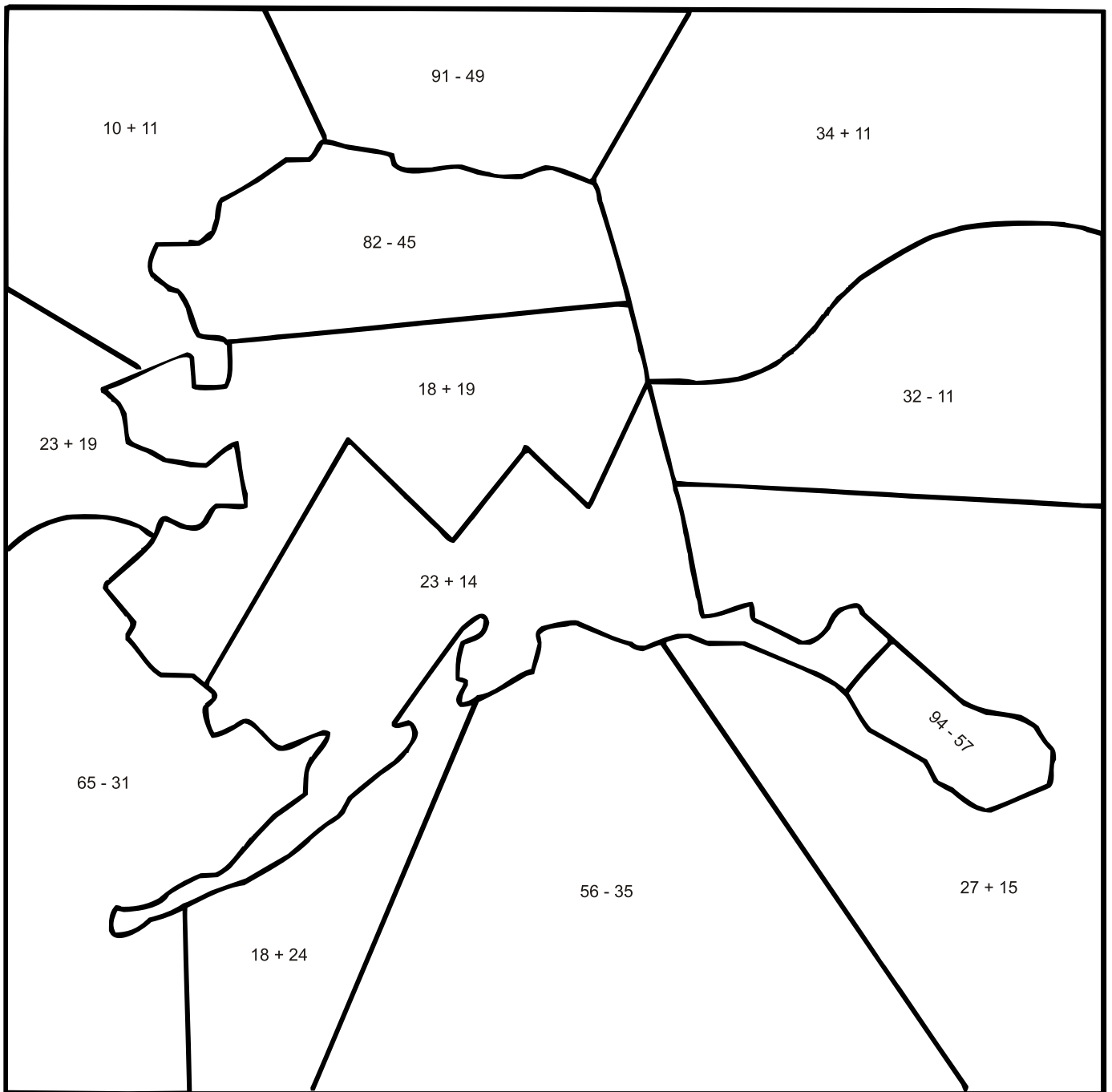
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ALASKA

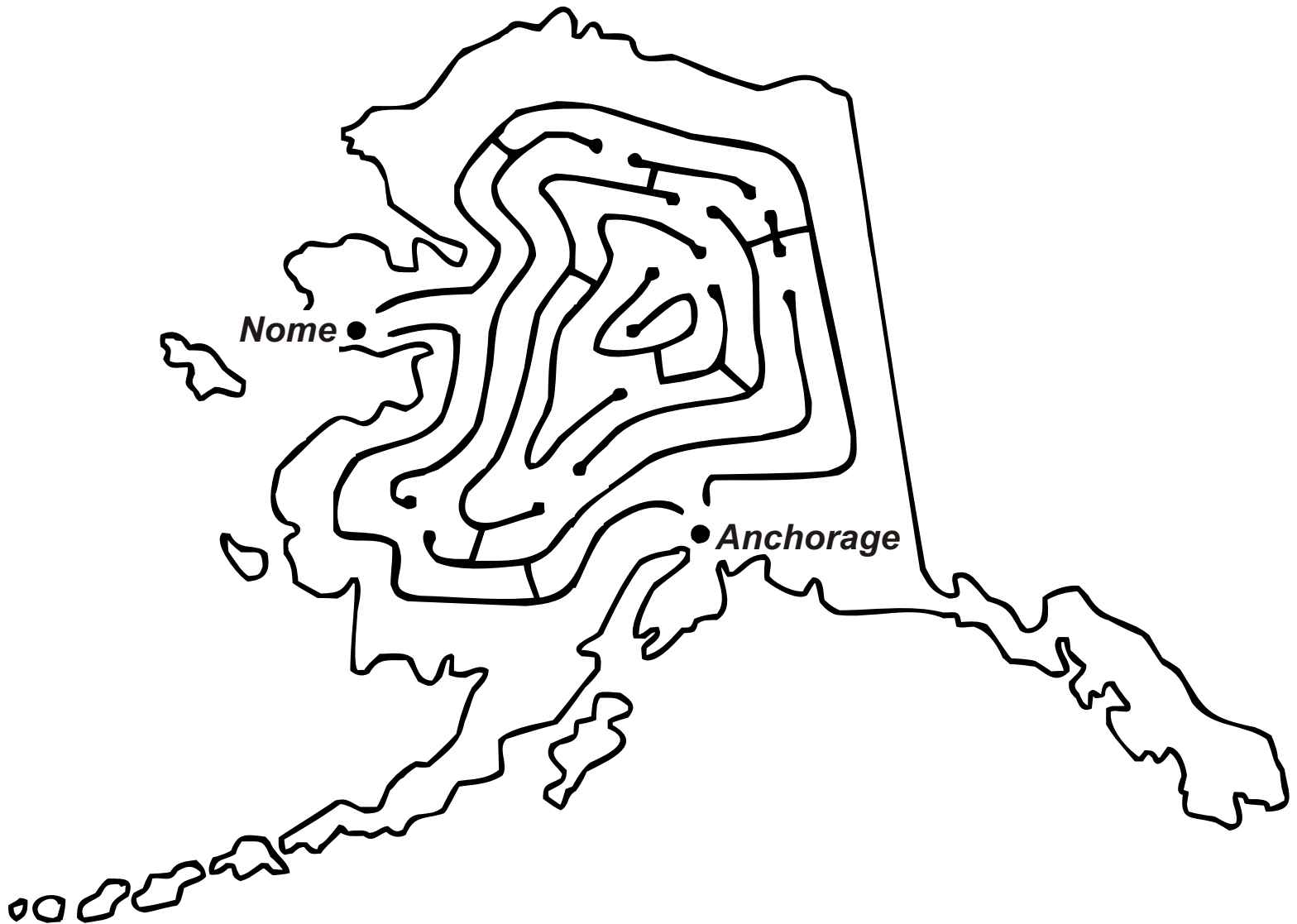


ALASKA



Do you know what state is pictured?

21 = Blue
34 = Red
37 = Olive Green
42 = White



Alaska State Quarter



Arctic Animals Coloring



Eight beautiful coloring pages featuring Arctic Animals:

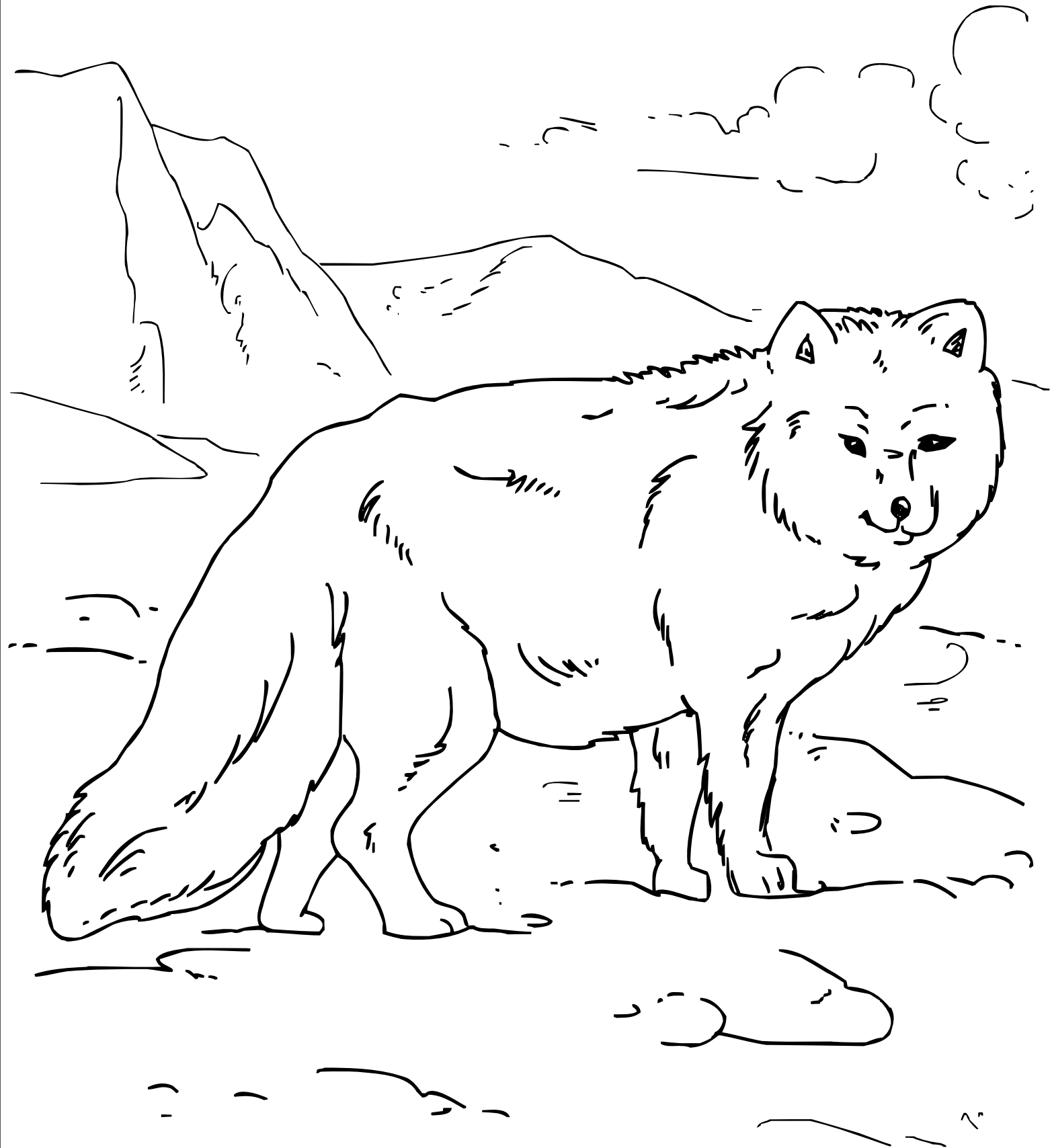
- Arctic Fox
- Arctic Tern
- Gyrfalcon
- Narwhal
- Peregrine Falcon
- Polar Bear
- Snowy Owl
- Wolverine

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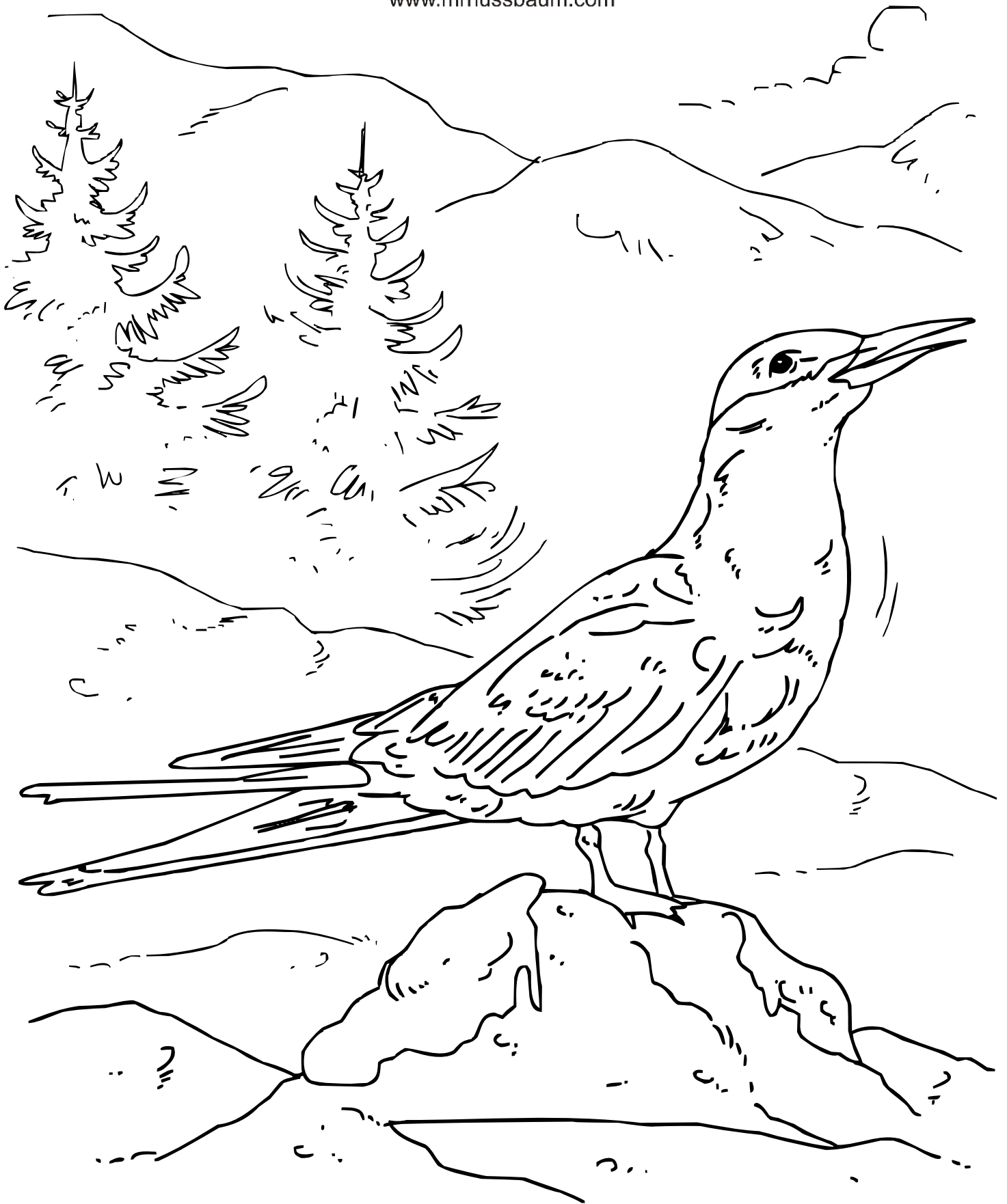
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Arctic Fox

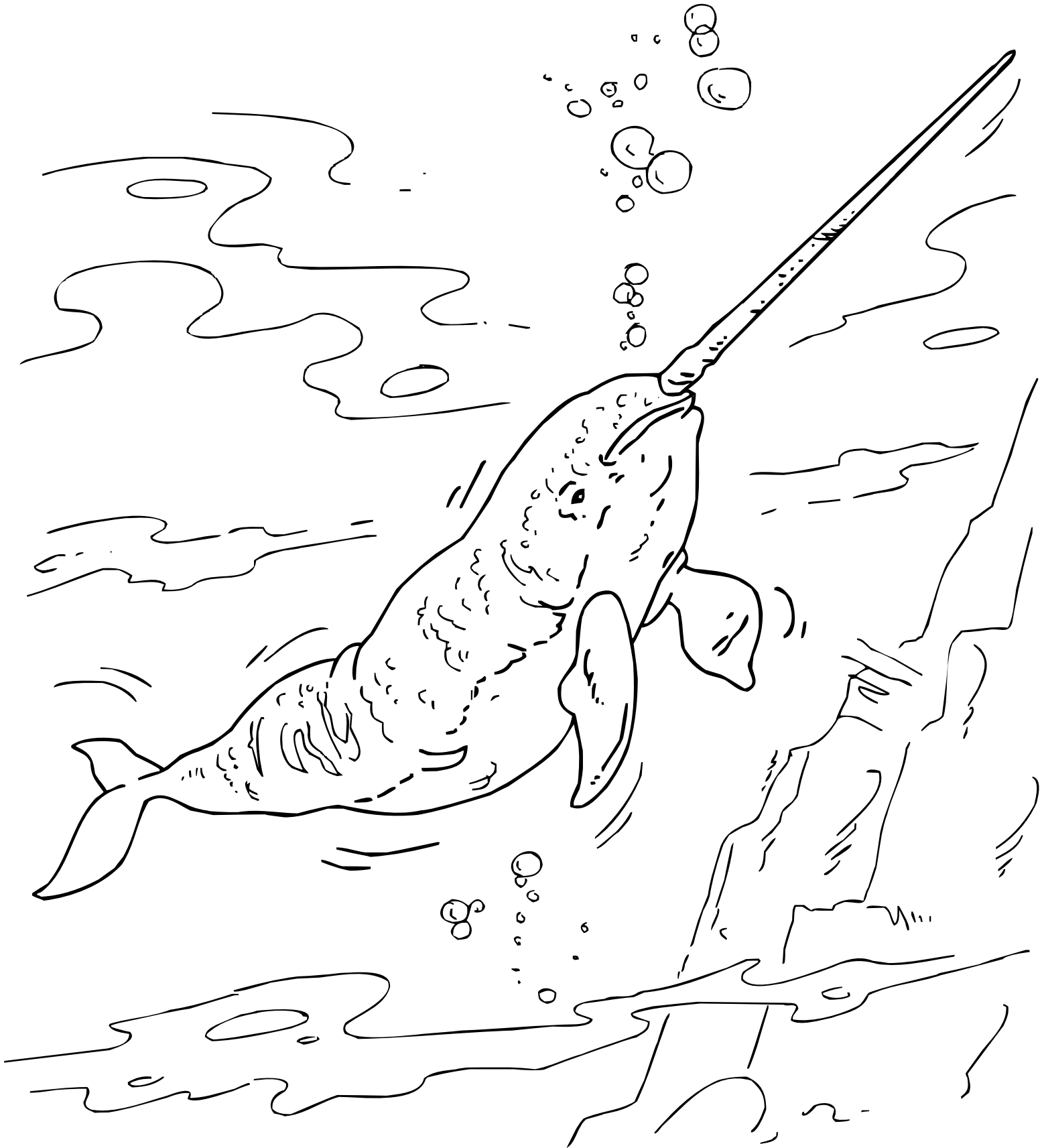


Arctic Tern

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Narwhal

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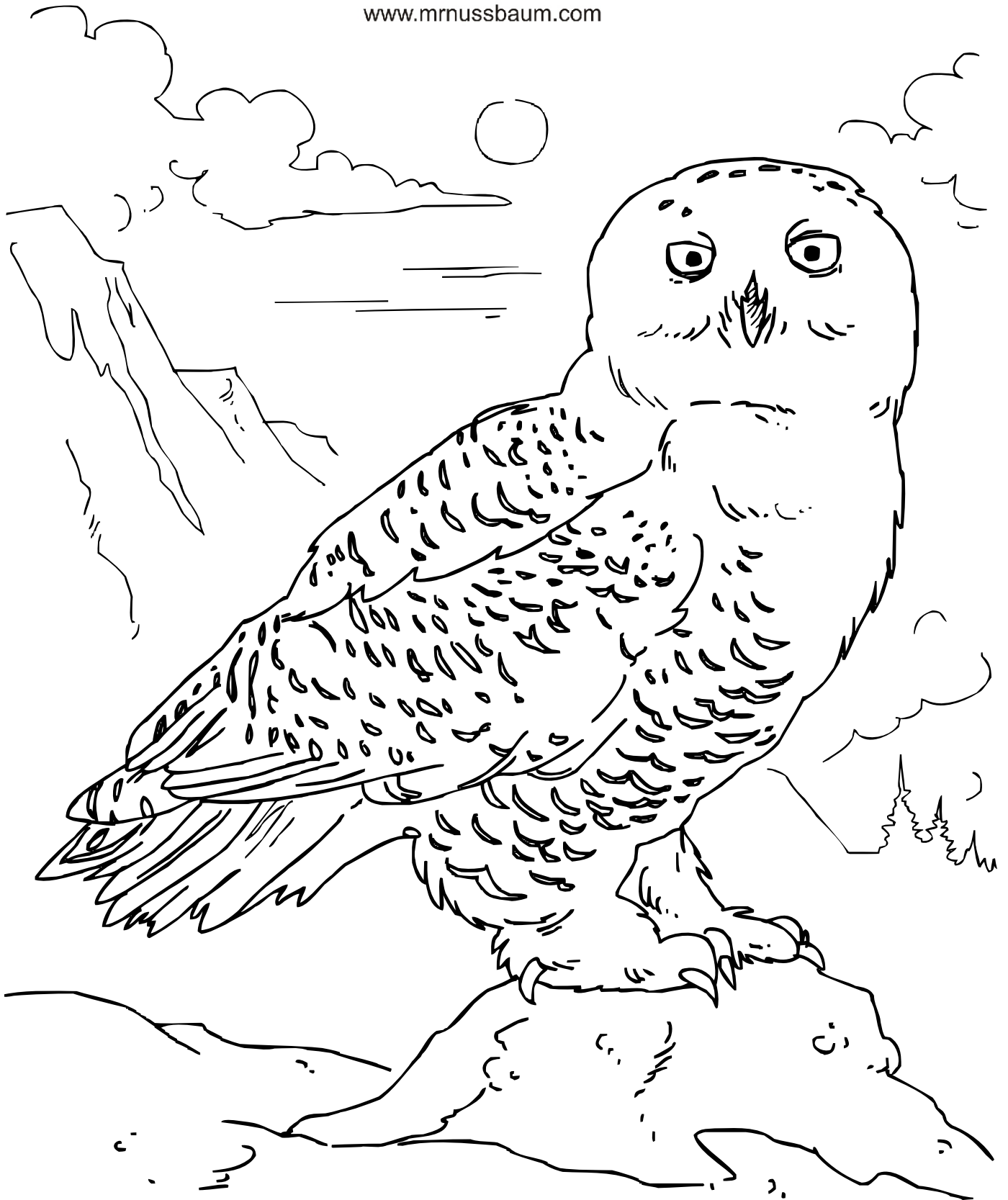


Peregrine Falcon

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Snowy Owl

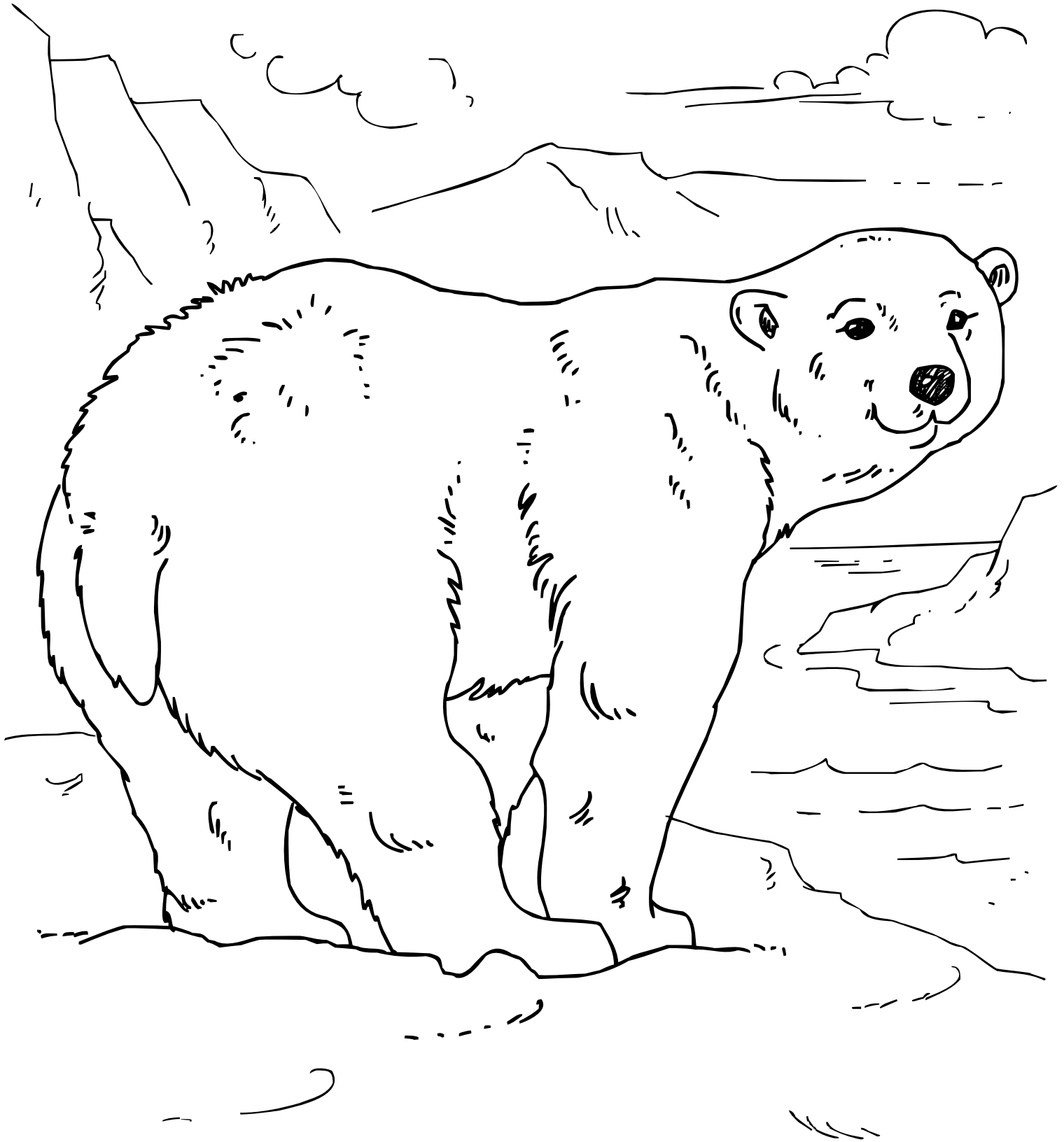


Wolverine

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Polar Bear



Gyr Falcon

ARCTIC FOX Reading Comprehension

The Arctic fox is a small fox found commonly in the arctic regions of the world. Measuring a little less than three feet in length, this fox is mottled brown in the summer and pure white in the winter. Adult foxes weigh between six and twenty pounds, though most are closer to six. Its thick fur coat helps insulate it from the freezing temperatures and windswept snow.

The Arctic fox is the ultimate survivor. It will eat just about anything including insects, small mammals, birds, ducks, geese, eggs, and even an occasional snowy owl. Lemmings, small mouse-like mammals, are its most common prey. In fact, when populations of lemmings crash every three or four years, so do the populations of foxes. Arctic foxes will eat berries and seaweed as well. When food is scarce, Arctic foxes become scavengers. The Arctic fox is sometimes preyed upon by polar bears.

Arctic fox vixens (female foxes) can give birth to as many as twenty-five kits (baby foxes) in the springtime (the largest of any carnivore). Most litters, however, contain between five and eight kits. Both male and female foxes help take care of the young.

While the Arctic fox is common throughout much of the Arctic region, it is exceedingly rare in the Scandinavian nations of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, where populations never recovered from severe overhunting. In addition, recent movements of the red fox into Arctic fox territory (probably as a result of global warming) threaten the Arctic fox population as well.

1.) How often do Arctic foxes eat snowy owls?

- a.) somewhat often
- b.) never
- c.) not often
- d.) very often

2.) Populations of Arctic foxes rise and fall according to...

- 1.) the severity of the winter.
- 2.) the warmth of the summer.
- 3.) the population of polar bears.
- 4.) the population of lemmings.

3.) What is the main prey of the Arctic fox?

- a.) lemmings
- b.) insects
- c.) birds
- d.) eggs

4.) Which is NOT true about the size of an Arctic fox?

- a.) They can grow to three feet in length.
- b.) Some can reach 20 pounds.
- c.) Most are close to 20 pounds.
- d.) Most are near six pounds.

5.) What does the word “insulate” mean in the sentence below?

Its thick fur coat helps insulate it from the freezing temperatures and windswept snow.

- a.) warn
- b.) protect
- c.) catch
- d.) cool

6.) Where would I find information about threats to the Arctic fox?

- a.) third paragraph
- b.) introductory paragraph
- c.) concluding paragraph
- d.) second paragraph

7.) What do Arctic foxes do when food is scarce?

- a.) move south
- b.) become prey for polar bears
- c.) eat more berries and seaweed
- d.) become scavengers

8.) Which is NOT true about Arctic foxes?

- a.) They have brown summer coats.
- b.) They are rare in Sweden.
- c.) They will eat almost anything.
- d.) The Arctic fox is never prey

9.) Complete the analogy:

Vixen: Fox :: _____ : Lion

- a.) Savanna
- b.) Cub
- c.) Lioness
- d.) Tiger

10.) If an answer to a question is “5 to 8,” what is the question?

- a.) How many kits survive?
- b.) How many kits can a vixen have?
- c.) How many kits does a female fox normally give birth to?
- d.) How many litters does a female fox have in her lifetime?

AURORAS Reading Comprehension

Auroras, often called Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and Southern Lights (Aurora Australis), are spectacular light displays most commonly viewed in the polar regions. Auroras occur because of interactions between Earth's magnetic field and solar winds. The solar wind is a stream of charged particles emitted from the sun's corona that travels far into space at speeds of up to 400 miles per second. Charged particles within the solar winds collide with atmospheric atoms and molecules when they reach Earth's magnetic field. The collisions cause quantum leaps, which means the kinetic energy within the electrons of the particles are converted to light. The collisions of different particles result in different-colored lights. Atomic oxygen produces red and green lights; nitrogen produces pink, blue, or violet light; helium produces purple lights; and neon produces rippled orange light. Auroras come in a vast array of shapes and forms such as arcs, swirls, "curtains," and glowing shapes. They often appear to be moving.

Auroras often occur as a result of a geomagnetic storm. A geomagnetic storm is the temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field as a result of an event in space such as a solar flare or coronal mass ejection (the ejection of charged particles from the sun's corona). In noteworthy geomagnetic storms, auroras can be seen well south (or north) of where they usually occur. The famous Great Geomagnetic Storms of 1859 produced what witnesses called the most spectacular auroras ever seen. Such auroras were seen throughout the United States, Japan, and Australia. The event lasted for almost a week.

1.) Quantum leaps are caused by...

- a.) the collision of solar winds with atoms and particles within Earth's magnetic fields.
- b.) the collision of solar winds with the sun's corona.
- c.) the collision of solar winds with Earth's winds.
- d.) the collapse of Earth's magnetic field.

2.) If the answer to a question is "the Geomagnetic Storms of 1859," what could be the question?

- a.) What was an example of a noteworthy geomagnetic storm?
- b.) Can auroras be seen away from the North or South Poles?
- c.) When do charged particles collide?
- d.) What is one way an aurora can form?

3.) Which of the following questions about auroras is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) How many auroras normally occur in a year?
- b.) How fast does solar wind travel?
- c.) What are some reasons auroras occur?
- d.) Have auroras ever been seen in Australia?

4.) If you were to make a "recipe" for an aurora, which of the following "ingredients" would be unnecessary?

- a.) the conversion of kinetic energy to light
- b.) particle collisions
- c.) solar wind
- d.) people

5.) The collision of neon particles produces _____ light.

- a.) orange
- b.) red
- c.) purple
- d.) blue

6.) Where would I MOST likely view the Aurora Borealis?

- a.) equator
- b.) the sun
- c.) South Pole
- d.) North Pole

7.) Which is NOT true about auroras?

- a.) They often appear to be in motion.
- b.) They are most often viewed in the polar regions.
- c.) They can appear as curtains, shapes, or swirls.
- d.) A geomagnetic storm is a permanent disturbance in Earth's magnetic field.

8.) What could be an antonym of the word "commonly" in the sentence below:

Auroras, often called Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and Southern Lights (Aurora Australis), are spectacular light displays most commonly viewed in the polar regions.

- a.) rarely
- b.) never
- c.) often
- d.) lately

9.) Which of the following could be an EFFECT of a geomagnetic storm?

- a.) Earth's magnetic field
- b.) an aurora
- c.) the sun
- d.) a mass coronal ejection

10.) What is the best definition of the word "emitted" as used in the sentence below:

The solar wind is a stream of charged particles emitted from the sun's corona that travels far into space at speeds of up to 400 miles per second.

- a.) grew
- b.) taken from
- c.) released
- d.) spun



Alaska Statehood - 7 cents

NARWHAL Reading Comprehension

The narwhal is a medium-size whale that lives in the Arctic region year-round. It is characterized by its single, straight tusk, which is actually an elongated canine (tooth) that grows to a length of ten feet. Normally, such tusks are unique to males. Occasionally, a male narwhal will have two tusks. The tusk functions as a sensory organ and is rarely, if ever, used for aggressive or defensive purposes. The narwhal itself can grow to about 18 feet in length, but most average about 13 feet. Narwhals can weigh up to 3,500 pounds.

The word “narwhal” comes from an old Norse (from Norway) word meaning “corpse.” The narwhal’s grayish, drab coloration reminded sailors of a dead body.

The narwhal feeds on Arctic fish such as cod and halibut, as well as shrimp and squid. Because narwhals lack teeth, it is thought that they swim toward their prey and suck it into their mouths.

Narwhals are a migratory species of whale. They migrate to shallow, ice-free coastal waters in the spring in pods (groups) of 10–100 individuals. In winter, they move to deeper waters under pack ice. Narwhals can dive to depths of over 2,500 feet and can stay underwater for 25 minutes or more. Their dives are among the deepest ever recorded for marine mammals. They use sonar to guide themselves through the murky depths.

Scientists believe there are about 75,000 narwhals living in the Arctic waters. Individuals in the wild can live up to 50 years. Narwhals are thought to be extremely sensitive to climate change and reduced pack ice in Arctic waters.

1.) Based on the passage, which is the best definition for the word “migratory?”

- a.) Something that travels
- b.) Something that stays in one place
- c.) Something that is rare
- d.) Something that hunts

2.) If the answer to a question is “13 feet,” what is the question?

- a.) How long can the narwhal grow?
- b.) What is the average length of a narwhal?
- c.) How long is the narwhal tusk?
- d.) How much longer is the male narwhal than the female?

3.) The narwhal CANNOT...

- a.) live up to 45 years.
- b.) grow to weigh more than 3,500 pounds.
- c.) grow to a length of 15 feet.
- d.) stay underwater for 20 minutes.

4.) Based on the passage, which of the following might be harmful to the narwhal population?

- a.) more sea ice
- b.) less sea ice
- c.) more polar bears
- d.) colder waters

5.) What is the narwhal’s tusk used for?

- a.) To scare off predators
- b.) As a sensory organ
- c.) To fight other narwhals
- d.) To hunt

6.) Which of the following would not fit the PROFILE of a narwhal?

- a.) A narwhal migrating to shallow waters in the spring
- b.) A narwhal using sonar
- c.) A narwhal swimming in icy waters
- d.) A narwhal using its teeth to tear prey

7.) Which of the following words is an ANTONYM of “murky” as used in the following sentence:

They use sonar to guide themselves through the murky depths.

- a.) clear
- b.) noisy
- c.) muddy
- d.) fast

8.) The narwhal’s tusk...

- a.) is actually a long tooth.
- b.) is longer than its body.
- c.) is longer in females.
- d.) is the same size as its body.

9.) Where would you find the answer to “What does the narwhal eat?”

- a.) second paragraph
- b.) third paragraph
- c.) concluding paragraph
- d.) introductory paragraph

10.) Where are narwhals in the winter?

- a.) under pack ice in shallow waters
- b.) under pack ice in deep waters
- c.) in ice-free deep waters
- d.) in ice-free shallow waters

The Future of the Polar Bear Reading Comprehension

Name _____

With their huge paws, fluffy white fur, and dark, expressive eyes, polar bears can appear to be cute and friendly creatures - from afar. Up close however, it is easy to see why polar bears are fearsome apex predators in their arctic homes. These enormous animals are outfitted with strong, sharp claws and a keen nose to help them detect and catch seals that swim to holes in the ice to breathe. During cold arctic winters, polar bears enjoy prime hunting season. Other arctic animals like the arctic fox depend on the leftovers from polar bear kills to sustain them throughout the harsh winter. In this way, polar bears fill an important niche, or role, in arctic ecosystems by controlling populations of seals while also providing food to scavengers.

Unfortunately, polar bears face a perilous future. In previous years, the biggest threat to polar bear populations was hunting by humans. While careful regulations helped to control this threat, polar bears are still not safe. Today polar bears are most threatened by the effects of a warming arctic climate. Polar bears depend on the expansive sheets of ice that form during cold winters to hunt seals. When ice forms later in the fall and thaws earlier in the spring, polar bears have less time to fatten up during their most vital feeding season. This is especially dangerous for polar bear mothers and their cubs. Mothers fast for long periods of time while their cubs are very young. With a shortened hunting season, polar bear mothers can be particularly challenged in finding enough food to replenish fat stores. Sea ice is also vital for the long migration routes polar bears follow annually. The bears can get stranded when warm weather prevents the sea from freezing.

Hungry bears that are stuck in the wrong place at the wrong time can be a big problem for humans. With their routes across the ice unavailable, polar bears are unable to move north and may venture towards towns to try to find food in garbage dumps and backyards. This is dangerous for humans and bears and creates a perception that bear populations are increasing. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to survey, or count, the number of polar bears accurately. The remote habitat that polar bears occupy can be hazardous for humans to access. On top of that, polar bears have large ranges and can be spread over long distances. Even heat-seeking cameras don't make the job any easier. Polar bear fur is such effective insulation that bears give off almost no detectable body heat. Without accurate measurements of polar bear populations, it is difficult to make informed plans to protect this precious predator of the north.

1.) Based on the following sentence, what could be the definition of “apex predator”?

Up close however, it is easy to see why polar bears are fearsome apex predators in their arctic home

- a.) a predator that lives in the arctic
- b.) a predator who occupies the highest spot in the food chain
- c.) a predator that humans like to hunt
- d.) a predator that plays an important role in the food chain

2.) Based on the information in the passage, if polar bear populations decline, what could you expect to happen to arctic foxes?

- a.) Arctic fox populations might increase because they will not be hunted as much
- b.) Arctic foxes might be able to have larger territories
- c.) Arctic fox populations will probably stay the same
- d.) Arctic fox populations might decline

3.) According to the passage, why could shortened winters be particularly dangerous to female polar bears?

- a.) Female polar bears need more food to stay warm
- b.) Female polar bears have to spend some of wintertime taking care of cubs instead of hunting
- c.) Female polar bears overheat more easily than male polar bears
- d.) Female polar bears have to spend more time traveling during the wintertime than male polar bears

4.) Why could it be important to have accurate counts of polar bear populations?

- a.) Scientists need to know how many polar bears there are to be able to feed bears enough food
- b.) Citizens need to know if they should be practicing bear safety when in polar bear habitat
- c.) To know how polar bear populations change year after year
- d.) It is important to know if polar bears will hunt too many seals

5.) What could be an appropriate title for the second paragraph?

- a.) "Threats to Polar Bears, Past and Present"
- b.) "The Effect of Hunting on Polar Bears"
- c.) "Winter Survival Techniques"
- d.) "Yearly Polar Bear Migration"

6.) What could be the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a.) To persuade
- b.) To inform
- c.) To entertain
- d.) To frighten

7.) Which of the following is not a challenge to polar bear conservation?

- a.) Not much is known about the lifestyle of polar bears
- b.) It is difficult to survey polar bear populations
- c.) Increased contact with humans means that some people believe polar bear populations are increasing
- d.) Polar bears have large ranges and can be hard to find

The Lemming and the Snowy Owl Name _____

The lemming is a small, grayish rodent that spends its life eating mosses and lichens on the ground or under the cover of snow in the Arctic. The lemming is one of the most important of Arctic animals because it forms the basis of important Arctic food chains. Populations of Arctic predators such as snowy owls, skuas, and arctic foxes rise and fall depending on the availability of lemmings.

The snowy owl is one of the largest and most powerful owls on earth. These owls are well-adapted for life in the Arctic. Adults can approach two and a half feet in length and are almost entirely white. Younger individuals may be speckled with brown or black. Snowy owls have powerful talons covered with thick feathers for insulation. The most striking features of the owls, however, may be their large, yellow eyes.

When lemmings are plentiful in the Arctic, Snowy Owls have better success in nesting because there is enough food for all nestlings. In years when snowy owl nests are successful, hundreds or thousands of young snowy owl migrate south during the winter into southern Canada and the northern United States to establish their own hunting territories. These movements, which are thought to occur every four years or so, are referred to as irruptions.

In recent irruptions, snowy owls have been recorded as far south as Oklahoma and the Carolinas. Because there are few, if any, trees in the Arctic, snowy owls frequent airport runways, golf courses, beaches, dunes, and open areas that bear some resemblance to arctic terrain. Snowy owl sightings in the United States quickly spread through the internet, often attracting hundreds of birdwatchers and photographers to a single location.

1. Why is the lemming so important in the Arctic?

- A. Because they are important predators
- B. Because several predators depend on them for food
- C. Because their populations rise and fall
- D. Because it is a rodent

2. Which of the following would be unusual?

- A. Seeing a snowy owl near an airport runway
- B. Seeing a snowy owl atop a sand dune
- C. Seeing a snowy owl during the winter in southern Canada
- D. Seeing a snowy owl in a treetop

3. Why do young snowy owls migrate south?

- A. To establish their own hunting territories
- B. To escape the cold
- C. To chase prey
- D. To find mates

4. Which best describes an irruption?

- A. When populations of snowy owls or other animals decline during the winter
- B. When populations of snowy owls or other animals become dependent on lemmings
- C. When populations of snowy owls migrate south in great numbers during the winter
- D. When snowy owls or other birds have successful nesting seasons

5. What impact does the internet have on birdwatchers hoping to see a snowy owl?

- A. Birdwatchers can learn about the snowy owl by reading about it on the internet.
- B. Birdwatchers can see a map that shows where snowy owls nest
- C. Birdwatchers can learn about locations where snowy owls have been recently sighted
- D. Birdwatchers can find out how to attract snowy owls to their yards

6. Which of the following fact BEST supports the following?

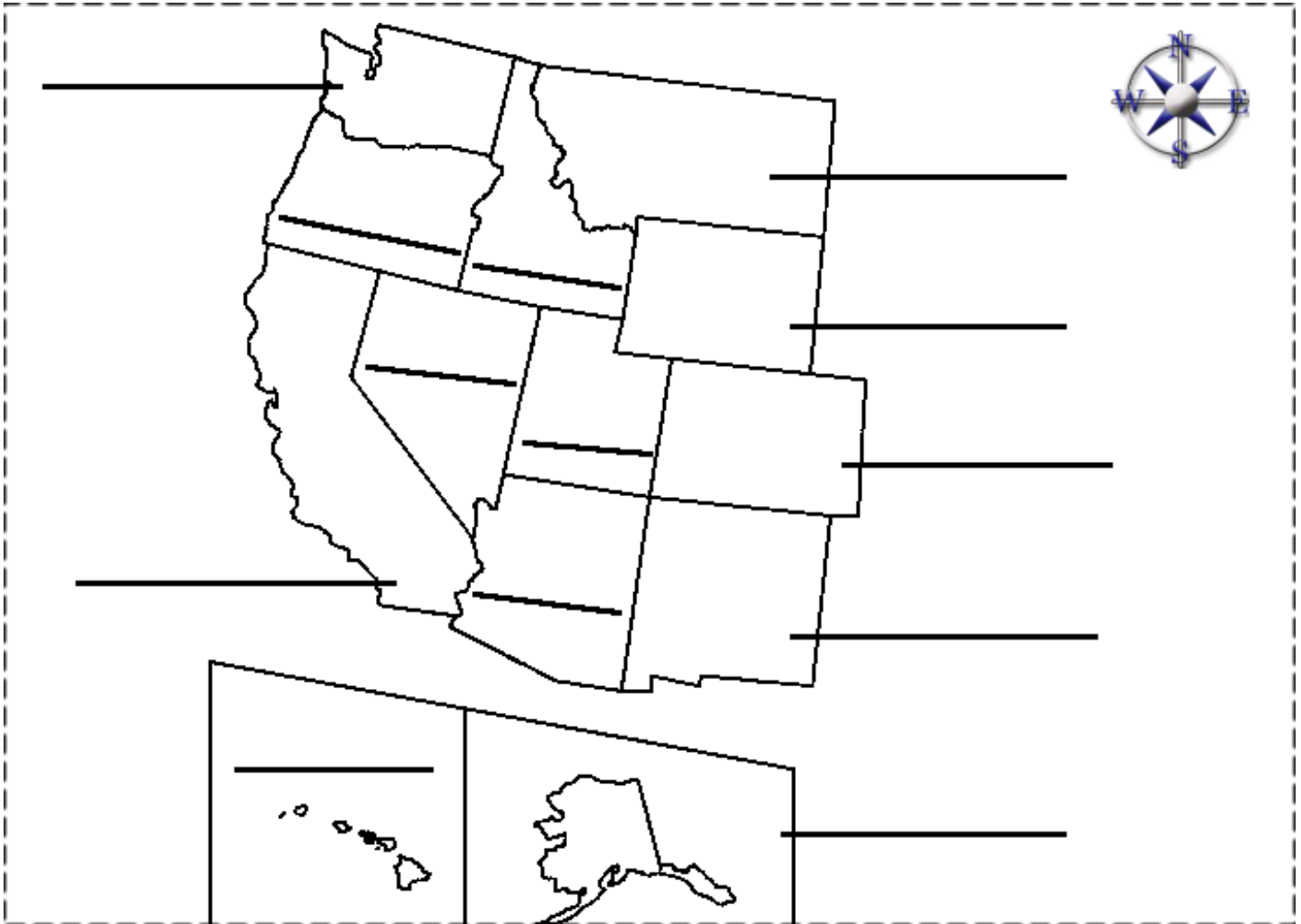
These owls are well-adapted for life in the Arctic.

- A. The snowy owl has powerful talons
- B. The snowy owl preys on lemmings
- C. The snowy owl has thick feathers on its talons for insulation
- D. The snowy owl may migrate south in the winter

7. Which of the following IS NOT true about Snowy Owls?

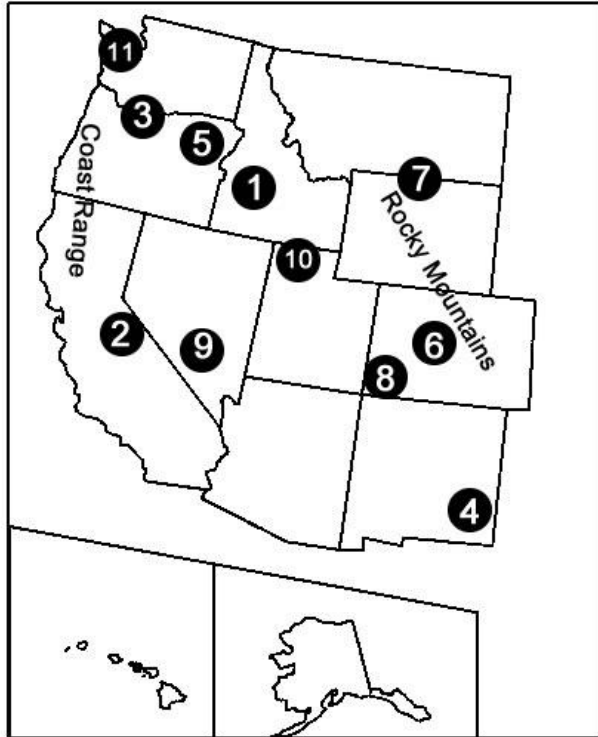
- A. Snowy owl adults have black or brown speckles and young snowy owls are almost totally white
- B. Snowy owls have been observed in states as far south as North Carolina and Oklahoma
- C. Successful nesting among snowy owls is dependent upon populations of lemmings
- D. Snowy owls have large, yellow eyes

Western States Label Map



Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct numbers that correspond to the various ranges.

Western Ranges



- 1.) The Cascades Range is located in Washington state and Oregon. It is represented by number _____.
- 2.) The Monitor Range is entirely within in the state of Nevada. It is represented by number _____.
- 3.) The Sacramento Range is located in eastern New Mexico. It is represented by number _____.
- 4.) The Bitterroot Range is located in southern Idaho. It is represented by number _____.
- 5.) The Wasatch Range is located in northern Utah. It is represented by number _____.
- 6.) The Blue Mountains are located in northeastern Oregon. These mountains are represented by number _____.
- 7.) The Olympic Range is located in western Washington. These mountains are represented by number _____.
- 8.) The Bighorn Range is located on the Montana/Wyoming border. It is represented by number _____.
- 9.) The Sierra Nevada Range is located in eastern California. It is represented by number _____.
- 10.) The San Juan Mountains are located in southwestern Colorado. These mountains are represented by number _____.
- 11.) The Sangre de Cristo Range is located in central Colorado. It is represented by number _____.

Answers:

1.) 3

2.) 9

3.) 4

4.) 1

5.) 10

6.) 5

7.) 11

8.) 7

9.) 2

10.) 6

11.) 8