



Arctic Fox & Fennec Fox Traits

Audience

Activity designed for ages 8-years-old and up.

Goal

Be able to identify key characteristics for Arctic and Fennec foxes.

Objective

- To understand the differences and similarities between 2 different fox species.
- To use a Venn diagram to organize information.

Conservation Message

There are 23 species of foxes worldwide that encompass four genera. Foxes are an important part of their ecosystem and without them there would be a devastating cascading effect.

Background Information

Fennec foxes are perfectly adapted for living in the Sahara Desert. They are smaller size with very large ears. They eat mostly insects, fruit and vegetation. Fennec foxes are a nocturnal species meaning they come out at night and sleep during the day.

Arctic foxes are found in the tundra region of the northern hemisphere. They are carnivores, hunting mostly for lemmings and the occasional sea bird or fish. Arctic foxes can change color! In the winter they are completely white. In the summer, they shed their white coats and grow blueish gray to brown colored fur.

Materials Needed

- Fox Trait Sheet
- Venn Diagram Sheet
- Scissors

Length of Activity

20 minutes

Procedure

- Cut apart all the traits from the Fox Traits sheet.
- Using the Venn Diagram sheet, place the traits under "Arctic Fox," "Fennec Fox," or "Both."
- Once all traits are placed, check your answers with the answer key.

Fox Traits

Nocturnal	Sand-colored fur	Extra-large ears; to help keep cool
Can get all its water from food	Extra fur on its feet	Thick bushy tail
Omnivore	Small ears	Fur changes colors with the seasons
Lives in underground burrows	Carnivore	Native to Africa
Found in the Tundra	Weighs 2-3 pounds	Conservation status: least concern
Weighs up to 20 pounds	Can be seen at Tulsa Zoo	Part of the Canine (dog) family



Arctic Fox

Both

Fennec Fox

Answer Key

Fennec Fox	Both	Arctic Fox
Nocturnal	Part of the Canine (dog) family	Fur changes colors with the seasons
Sand-colored fur	Lives in underground burrows	Carnivore
Omnivore	Can get all its water from food	Small ears
Extra-large ears; to help keep cool	Extra fur on its feet	Found in the Tundra
Native to Africa	Thick bushy tail	Weights up to 20 pounds
Weights 2-3 pounds	Can be seen at Tulsa Zoo	
	Conservation status: least concern	