## Reindeer

Reindeer are large mammals that live in Arctic areas. Many people use the words reindeer and caribou to mean the same animal. Reindeer and caribou actually are the same species, but there are some differences between the two. Caribou are large, wild animals. They live in Greenland and northern North America. Reindeer are a little smaller and stouter. Reindeer can be kept as pets or used as working animals. Large groups of wild reindeer can be found in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

Reindeer are built for snow and cold conditions. They can keep themselves warm even when the temperature around them is freezing. Their hooves also change depending on the season. This helps them to travel across different ground. In the winter, their footpads shrink and tighten. This allows the rim of the hoof to cut into the ice and snow, stopping them from slipping. Reindeer and caribou blend in, or camouflage, with their environment.



- 1. Where do reindeer and caribou live?
  - O South America
  - O Africa
  - 🔿 North America
- 2. What is a difference between caribou and reindeer?
  - O Their color
  - Their size
  - O Their eating habits
- 3. Would you like to have a reindeer as a pet? Give two reasons why or why not.



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Answers will vary. Students should identify yes or no, and provide two reasons to justify their answers.