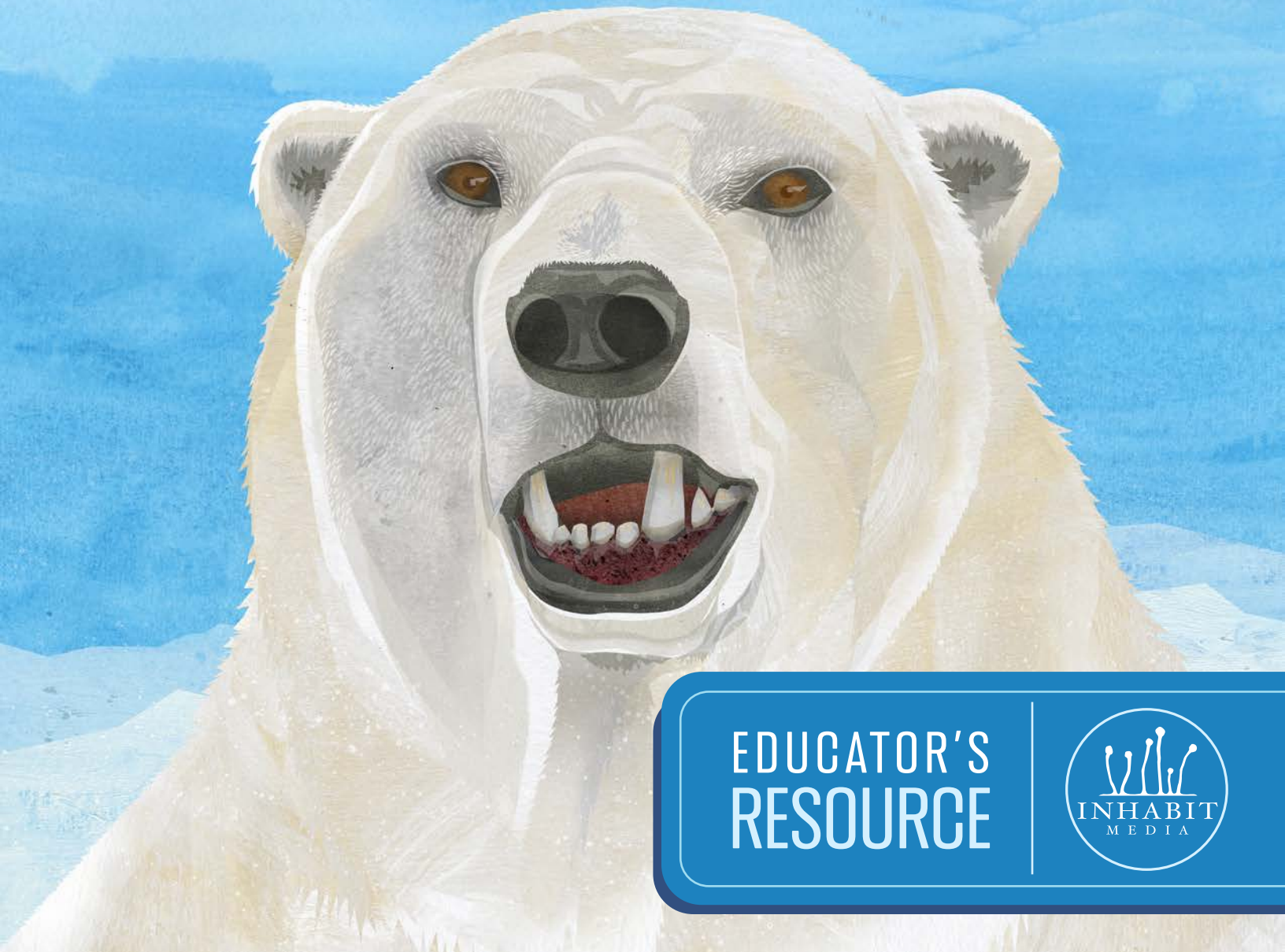


• ANIMALS ILLUSTRATED •

Polar Bear

by William Flaherty • illustrated by Danny Christopher



EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



Animals Illustrated: Polar Bear

About the Book

Animals Illustrated mixes fun-filled animal facts suitable for the youngest of readers with intricately detailed illustrations to create a unique and beautiful collection of children's non-fiction books about Arctic animals. Each volume contains first-hand accounts from authors who live in the Arctic, along with interesting facts on the behaviours and biology of each animal.

In this book, kids will learn how polar bears raise their babies, what they eat and how they hunt, where they can be found, and other interesting information, like the fact that polar bears actually have transparent fur and black skin!

About the Author

William Flaherty is a conservation officer and an avid hunter who regularly volunteers with Iqaluit Search and Rescue. He is the author of *Animals Illustrated: Polar Bear*. He lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

About the Illustrator

Danny Christopher is an illustrator who has travelled throughout the Canadian Arctic as an instructor for Nunavut Arctic College. He is the illustrator of *The Legend of the Fog* and *A Children's Guide to Arctic Birds*. His work on *The Legend of the Fog* was nominated for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. He lives in Toronto with his wife and four children.

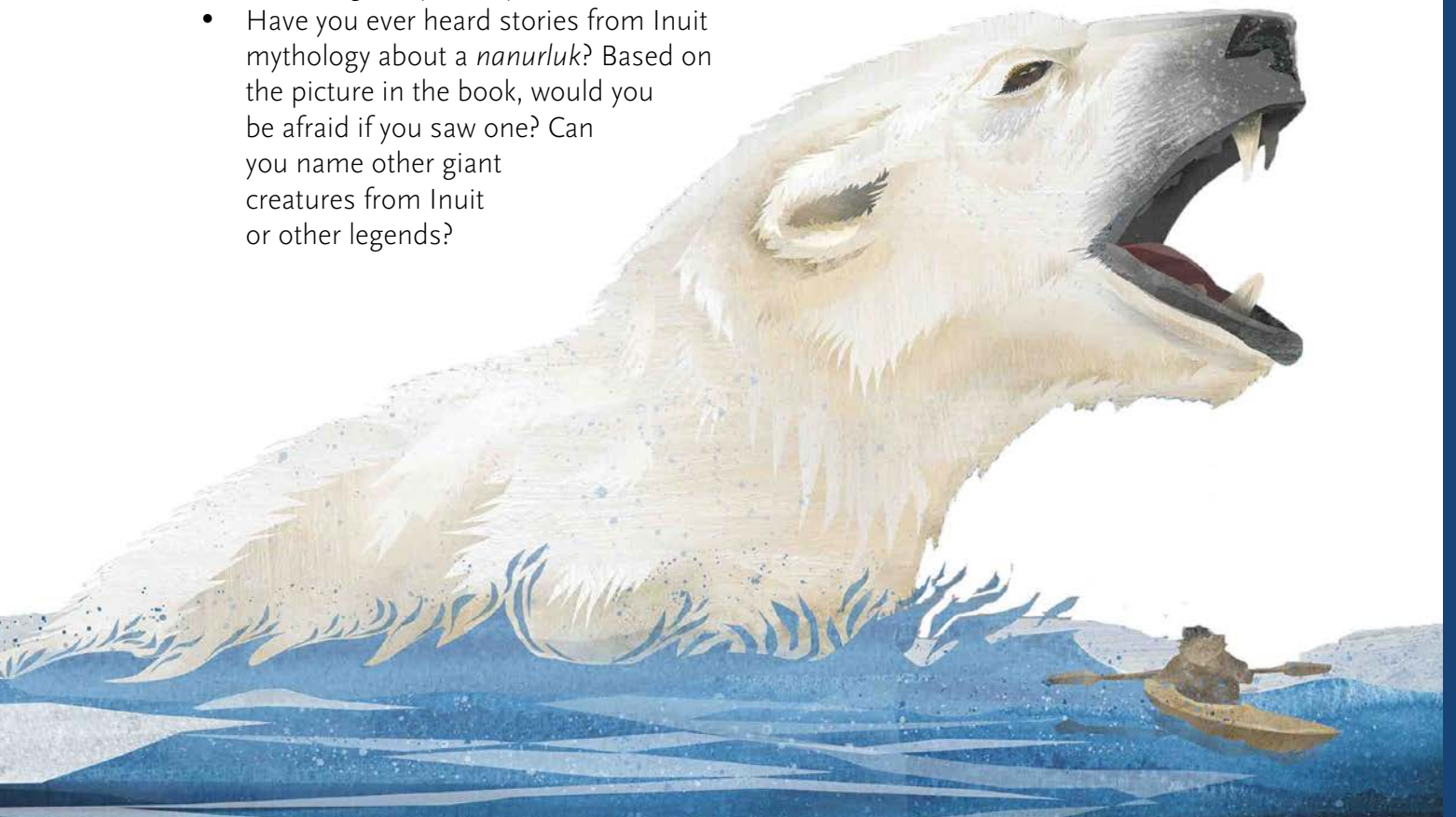
Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Take another look at the polar bear on the cover of the book. Do you think the bear looks scary, friendly, cold, or cuddly? How would you describe polar bears—magnificent, terrifying, fascinating, powerful?
- Have you ever seen a real polar bear? Was it in the wild, at the zoo, or on television? If you watched a television show or Internet video about polar bears, was it a non-fiction show with true facts, or a fictional show with a story? Can you name any shows with cartoon polar bears? Can you name any advertisements with polar bears in them?
- Many picture books for children feature polar bears in them. Why do you think that is? Does that surprise you after what you've learned in this book?

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Animals Illustrated: Polar Bear*. Provide students with the chance to voice their own opinions, share their experiences, ask questions, or point out anything else they may notice about the book.

- Can you imagine how tall 11 feet is? (The teacher can indicate this on the classroom wall.) That's the height of the tallest recorded polar bear! Can you remember how much it weighed? (2,200 pounds.) That's equal to the weight of about 35 kids. Did that polar bear weigh more than your whole class? How much room would he have taken up in your classroom?
- Which polar bear is larger, male or female? Do you think that's true of other animals? What about humans?
- How long do polar bears live? How does this compare with a human lifespan? With a dog or cat?
- What do polar bears eat? Do you know what carnivores are? Do you know what omnivores are? Are polar bears carnivores or omnivores? Are humans carnivores or omnivores? Would you like to watch a polar bear catch a seal?
- What is the most interesting fact that you learned about polar bears? Can you name some other types of bears? How are polar bears different from other bears?
- What are the three environments that polar bears can live in? How does this give them greater access to their sources of food? Speaking of food, how many teeth do polar bears have?
- What are breathing holes, and how do they help polar bears find a seal meal in the winter? How do they hunt in the summer?
- Can you name some other animals that might be as good at swimming as polar bears are? How do their large paws help with swimming? What helps these large creatures stay afloat in the water? How long can polar bears stay underwater? How long can you stay underwater?
- Have you ever heard stories from Inuit mythology about a *nanurluk*? Based on the picture in the book, would you be afraid if you saw one? Can you name other giant creatures from Inuit or other legends?



Extension Activities

Have students complete one or more of these activities.

Language Arts

Research and read some stories from Inuit legends about the nanurluk. Write a report and share it with the class.

Art

Create a story about polar bears in the style of a comic strip or graphic novel. It can be fiction or non-fiction.

Science

Choose one of the animals from the polar bear's diet. Research and write a report about this animal using a "Top 10 Facts" format.

Research and write a report about two other animals that are white or appear white. What things do they have in common with the polar bear? How are they different?

