Reindeer

Did you know that all reindeer do not just live at the North Pole? It's true! Reindeer are interesting creatures. They can be found in Northern Asia, Europe, Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. In North America, reindeer are called "caribou." They are are nomadic species, which means they are constantly moving from place to place in large herds that may contain thousands of reindeer. They survive the cold temperatures of their habitats, because their coat has two layers. A soft wool under-layer lies against its skin. Long, hollow "guard hairs" form the top layer. These special layers help to keep them warm and dry. Just like Rudolph, a reindeer's nose plays an important part in its survival. Since reindeer live in areas where food often hides under the snow, they rely on a super sense of smell to find their dinner. Reindeer also have special hooves to scoop and dig through the snow to plants and food underneath. Male and female reindeer grow antlers. Each year the antlers fall off, and the next year the reindeer grow even bigger antlers which they use to defend against predators

