



Name _____ Date _____

TUNDRA

Do you think the desert is the only place that has very little rain? The tundra doesn't get much rain either. It is different from the desert, though. The tundra is almost always frozen!

The tundra is one of the coldest habitats on the earth. Summer only lasts for two months. During this time, the ground thaws, or melts, a little. It is never very warm, though. During the winter, there are times when the sun doesn't shine at all.

Only a few plants are able to stay alive in this habitat. When the icy winds blow, they are only safe because they grow close to the ground. Animals such as reindeer, polar bears, and musk oxen are the only ones that can stay alive in this cold weather. They have very thick fur that keeps them warm. Some of these animals hibernate in the winter while others migrate south.

The plants and animals of the tundra have adapted to this harsh environment.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Summer in the tundra is . . .
 - a. hot and dry.
 - b. very busy.
 - c. two months long.
 - d. cold and rainy.
2. If you were to visit the tundra, you might expect to see . . .
 - a. parks, benches, and swing sets.
 - b. flowers, trees, and large bushes.
 - c. low-lying plants and a few animals.
 - d. birds, cats, and dogs.
3. A person who plans to visit the tundra should probably wear . . .
 - a. shorts and sunglasses.
 - b. a light jacket and a baseball cap.
 - c. a heavy jacket, warm hat, and gloves.
 - d. skis.
4. How are the tundra and a desert similar?
 - a. They are not similar at all.
 - b. They both have lots of different types of plants.
 - c. They have the same types of plants and animals.
 - d. They both get very little rain.