

ELINOR'S TOWN

103 INTERSTITIAL: MS MOLE STORY TIME: POLAR BEARS

Written by

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Follows "The Science of Staying Warm"

Curriculum: The kids learn that Polar Bears have white fur to help them hide in the snow.

Learning Goals: LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs - Animals have different shapes, patterns and colors to help them blend in with their surroundings and "hide".

FIRST DRAFT: 09-Jan-19

1. INT SCHOOLROOM -- DAY

We open to Ms. Mole walking into the classroom after recess, wearing a big white fluffy white coat.

1 MS. MOLE 1
Brrrr! It's so cold today! Let's
warm up with a nice cup of hot
cocoa and a story!

We see a group of kids gather on the carpet around Ms Mole. Elinor is near the front.

Ms. Mole takes out a book from her coat.

2 KIDS 2
Yay! / We love story time!

3 ELINOR 3
What's today's story, Ms. Mole?

4 MS. MOLE 4
Today's story is all about staying
warm! But our story starts in a
very cold place...

Ms Mole opens the book, which reveals an icy, polar environment.

2. EXT POLAR -- DAY

An icy scene, with piles of snow and some water visible.

5 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 5
Way up in the north, it's verrrrrry
cold, only a few animals can stay
warm.

We see a polar bear enter.

6 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 6
The polar bear has a very thick
coat of fur to stay warm!

The polar bear preens a bit, looks proud of itself.

7 KID BEAR 7
Hey! One of my cousins is a polar
bear! When they visit us, they
don't even need a jacket outside!

8 MS. MOLE 8
That's right!

We see the polar bear playing in the snow.

9 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 9
Polar bears have thick coats of fur
that let them stay warm on the ice.

We see the polar bear jump into the water.

10 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 10
Or even when they swim in the
freezing waters!

11 ELINOR 11
Ms Mole, why are polar bears always
white?

The polar bear floats on its back, relaxing, like it's a
sunny day at the pool. It's playing with its polar bear cubs.

12 MS. MOLE 12
Good question! Polar bears are
always white so they can hide in
the snow! It's CAMOUFLAGE!

The polar bear doesn't react.

13 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 13
I SAID: they can hide in the snow!

The polar bear scrambles back onto the ice, hides in the
snow.

14 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 14
You can hardly see him!

15 KIDS 15
Oooh!

16 MS. MOLE 16
But that's not even the most
amazing thing about the polar
bear's fur!

The polar bear looks interested, pokes his own fur.

17 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 17
Do you know what color a polar bear
is underneath all that fur?

18 KIDS 18
Is it white too? / I'm pink. / I
have brown skin. / My skin is grey!

19

MS. MOLE

19

If you look closely, a polar bear's skin is actually black underneath the fur!

The polar bear looks surprised. He uses a paw to push some hair out of the way, we see his skin is black. He looks surprised and impressed with himself.

20

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)

20

The white fur helps them hide in the snow, but the black underneath helps soak up the warm light from the sun.

3. INT SCHOOLROOM -- DAY

Ms. Mole closes the book. She is now wearing a polar bear hoodie over her head in addition to her furry coat.

21

MS. MOLE

21

You won't find a mole like me swimming in freezing water.

22

She tries to take a sip of tea, but the mask is blocking her ~~22~~.