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: 22-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 5
Way up in the north, it's verrrrry 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.

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

22 22