

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 thick white fur and black skin to stay warm in the snow and ice

Learning Goals: LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs - explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment [Polar Bear's thick fur and black skin help it stay warm]

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1. INT SCHOOL ROOM -- 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 ELINOR / OLIVE /ARI 2
Yay! / I love story time! / Oh
yeah!

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 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 OLIVE 7
Hey! One of my friends is a polar
bear! When she visits, she doesn't
even wear 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
on their skin 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 have
white fur so they can hide in the
snow! It's CAMOUFLAGE!

The polar bear doesn't react.

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

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

14 ELINOR 14
You can hardly see him!

15 OLIVE/ARI 15
Oooh!/Wow!

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

The polar bear looks interested, pokes his own fur.

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

18 ARI / ELINOR /OLIVE 18
Is it white too? / I'm pink under
my fur. / 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 thick white fur keeps them cozy
in the snow, and the black skin
underneath helps them 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

It's a good thing polar bears have
such special fur and skin! 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