Variation game

Match the animals to the environment and decide what might happen with the suggested variation.

Tundra (and Taiga)

It is very cold and dry here. Temperatures range from a winter time low of -70°C to summer time high of 12°C. It is also very windy with very little precipitation (mainly snow). While the summer can be mild and the frozen ground thaws a little, underneath the top layer of soil the ground is permanently frozen (called permafrost).



Alpine Mountain

It is cold, snowy and often windy here, although the climate varies depending on the specific region and height. Temperatures range from a winter time low of below 0°C to a summer time high of 15.5°C °C. There is a low level of precipitation (rain and snow).

Temperate grasslands or forest

This is known as a temperate continental climate which tends to result in very hot summers and very cold winters. Temperatures can range from -40°C in winter to over 37°C in the summer. About 55-95cm of precipitation (rain and snow) falls mainly during the spring and summer.



Desert/desert scrub

Temperatures are usually very high in the summer months but remain warm throughout the year. Precipitation (rain) is very low - about 8-13cm annually in damper regions, although in others it may not rain for years on end! And in fact, rain is often evaporated back into the air at a greater rate than it falls. Depending on the region temperatures can range from 20-49°C (that is very hot!).





Arctic fox – I have thicker fur



Snowy owl – larger claws



Reindeer – longer legs



Polar bear - smaller



Bearberry - larger berries



Arctic willow – leaves without fuzzy hairs



Osprey – smaller wing span



Snowshoe hare – darker fur



Snow leopard – no fur on pads of paws



Mountain goat – better sight, poorer hearing



Yak – white in colour



Marmot – thicker, more orange fur



Wild sage – paler colour



Moss campion – more but smaller flowers



Badger – better sight



Bumble bee without stripes and thistle that is white



Butterfly –large red circles on tips of wings



Stinging nettle that doesn't sting



Wolf – speckled coat



Bison smaller body but bigger horns



Lizard – darker colour



Desert toad - larger



Giant scorpion – extra set of small pincers



Rattlesnake - bright yellow markings



Cactus – bright red in colour



Yucca – grows taller and narrower stem