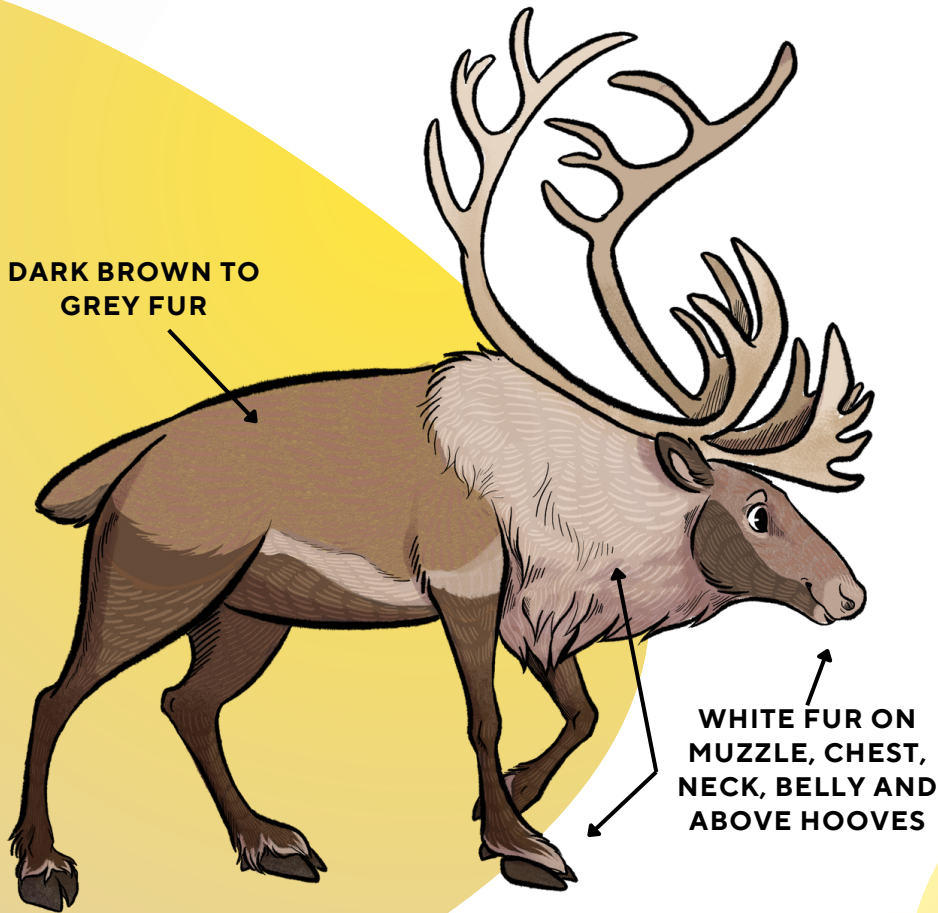


BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU

RANGIFER TARANDUS GROENLANDICUS



HABITAT

Barren-ground caribou are found in Alaska, Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Nunavut as well as northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There is also a population in Greenland, where they are called *Tuttu*. Every year, the large Porcupine caribou herd undertakes the longest migration by any land mammal on Earth.

DIET

In the spring and summer, barren-ground caribou eat sedges, grasses, shrubs, and mushrooms found on the tundra. As fall approaches, they move to areas where lichen is more abundant.

THREATS

Climate change is altering migration routes, modifying food quality, increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, and changing disease dynamics. A large portion of their calving grounds is within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska which could be opened up to oil and gas drilling.

CONSERVATION

Barren-ground caribou populations in Canada are declining and were assessed as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in 2016. The Porcupine caribou herd is managed by both Canada and the USA under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement.

WEIGHT

MALES: 100-150 KG (220-330 LB)
FEMALES: 85-135 KG (187-298 LB)



Photo: Atsushi Sugimoto/Arctic Photo Laboratory

