Magda Gargulákova
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Polar Regions
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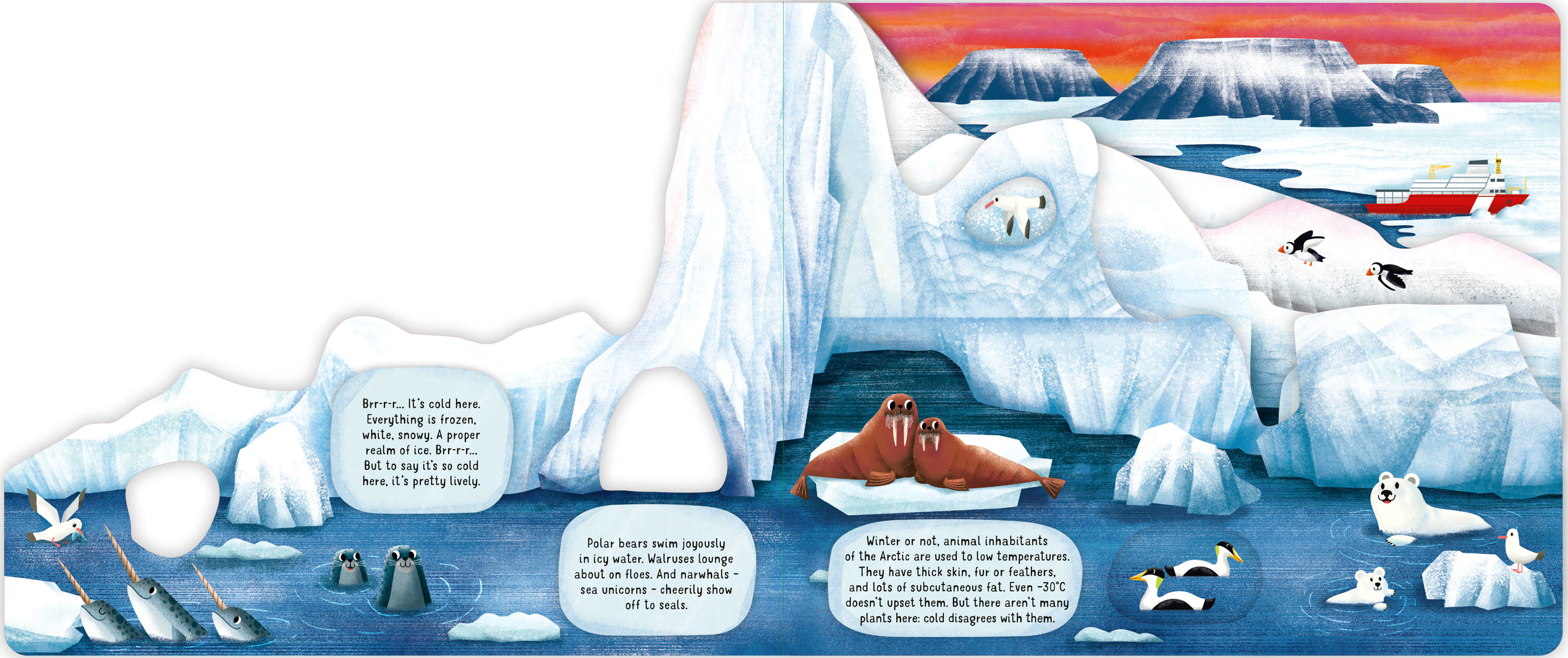

Brr-r-r... It's cold here. Everything is frozen, white, snowy. A proper realm of ice. Brr-r-r... But to say it's so cold here, it's pretty lively.
Polar bears swim joyously in icy water. Walruses lounge about on floes. And narwhals – sea unicorns – cheerily show off to seals.
Winter or not, animal inhabitants of the Arctic are used to low temperatures. They have thick skin, fur or feathers, and lots of subcutaneous fat. Even –30°C doesn't upset them. But there aren't many plants here: cold disagrees with them.

Indigenous peoples live here too. Depending on where in the Arctic they live, we call them Inuit, Sámi or Yakuts.
Local people make their living by rearing livestock and fishing, at which they are true masters. Oh! I've just had a bite!
Ice cracks, waves splash, birds squeal. There are very many birds here, from strong-beaked puffins to Iceland gulls, auks and eiders. While some migrate in winter, the hardiest stay here all year round.

This region comprises the vast Arctic Ocean, frozen most of the year, and different-sized islands within it. The only inhabited ones are Greenland, the largest, and Svalbard and Novaya Zemlya, which are a lot smaller. Most people live in small towns and villages by the coast.

The traditional wooden houses are lovely and colourful. There are so few people here that everyone knows everyone.

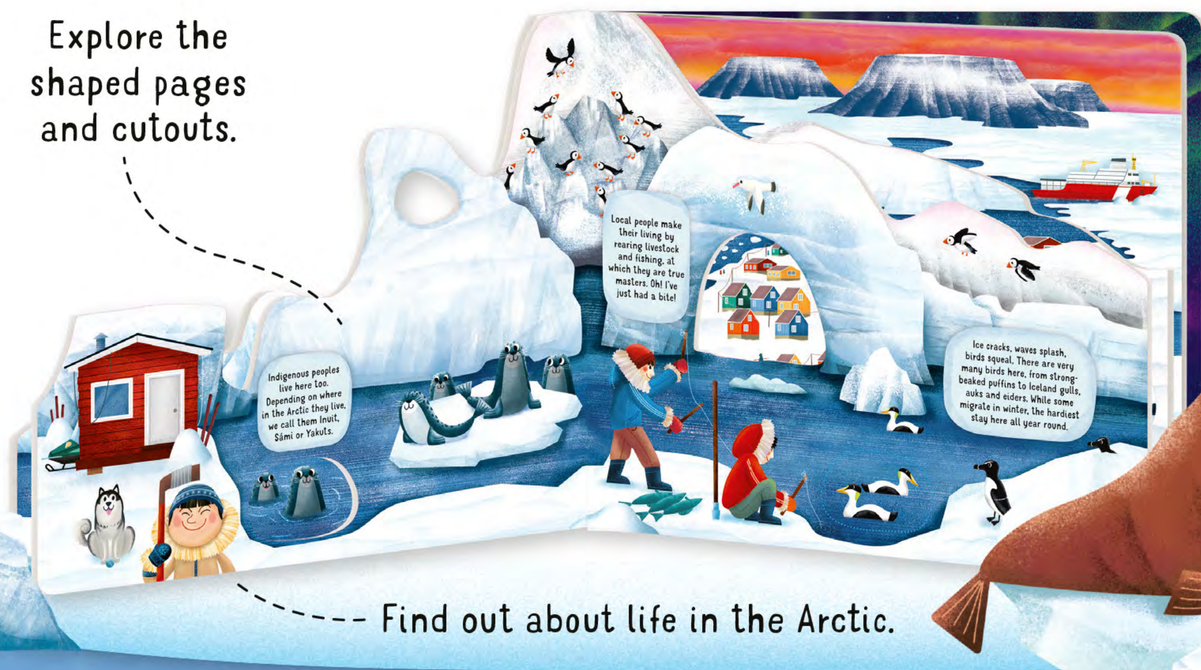
Polar Regions

Magda Garguláková • Martin Šojdr

Our planet has two great frozen kingdoms – realms of ice, snow and immense white plains whose coldness is almost impossible to imagine. We call them the Antarctic and the Arctic. One is in the far south, the other in the far north. Their scenery is majestic, mysterious and fairy-tale-like, but also harsh and dangerous. They are home to seals, penguins, walruses and redoubtable polar bears. Their unique ecosystems are important for the whole world.

Sound great, don't they? Why not come along? Put on your warmest clothes and off we'll go! You will ride on a dog sleigh, meet local people, admire the northern lights – and perhaps even see a polar bear.

Explore the shaped pages and cutouts.



Why are the polar regions so important?

Find out about life in the Arctic.

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WARNING:
Choking hazard.
Not suitable for children
under 36 months.

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