

# A Fox of Many Colors

Maarten is not as well adapted to the harsh winter as the Arctic fox. When temperatures start falling in September, he heads back home to the Netherlands. How does the Arctic fox prepare for the cold weather? It changes its fur.

During the summer, a fox's coat is brown and gray and thin. In September, the fox's coat starts to grow thicker. Its color also changes. By November, the animal has very fluffy white fur to keep it warm. Then at the end of winter, the fox **sheds** its fur and grows a darker, thinner summer coat.

**An Arctic fox with its thick winter coat**



The fox's different coats come in handy when it's hunting. The winter fur blends in with the white snow. The brown and gray coat can't be seen against the rocks and dirt of summer. This **camouflage** allows the fox to sneak up on its **prey** all year-round.



An Arctic fox's coat between winter and summer

An Arctic fox with its thinner summer coat



By eating a lot at the end of summer, a fox can add several pounds of body fat. This fat, along with its fur, acts as **insulation**, keeping the fox's body warm during winter.

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