



[http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3238/2709691210\\_f33369d4de.jpg](http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3238/2709691210_f33369d4de.jpg)

# CARIBOU

An Endangered Deer

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<http://images.sciencedaily.com/2008/05/080501180253-large.jpg>



<http://www.globalanimal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/boreal-caribou-canada.jpg>

## Introduction

Imagine yourself going on a walk in the woods in Alaska or Canada. You hear the sound of a big animal not far from you. I'm guessing you would be scared, because I would be. But then a mother caribou and her calf peek their heads out of the trees. You are no longer scared but amazed! What a beautiful animal! They start to gracefully prance across the trail. As you walk back, you can't stop thinking about that amazing animal, the caribou! You're seeing the broad hooves, their skinny legs, and fascinating antlers.

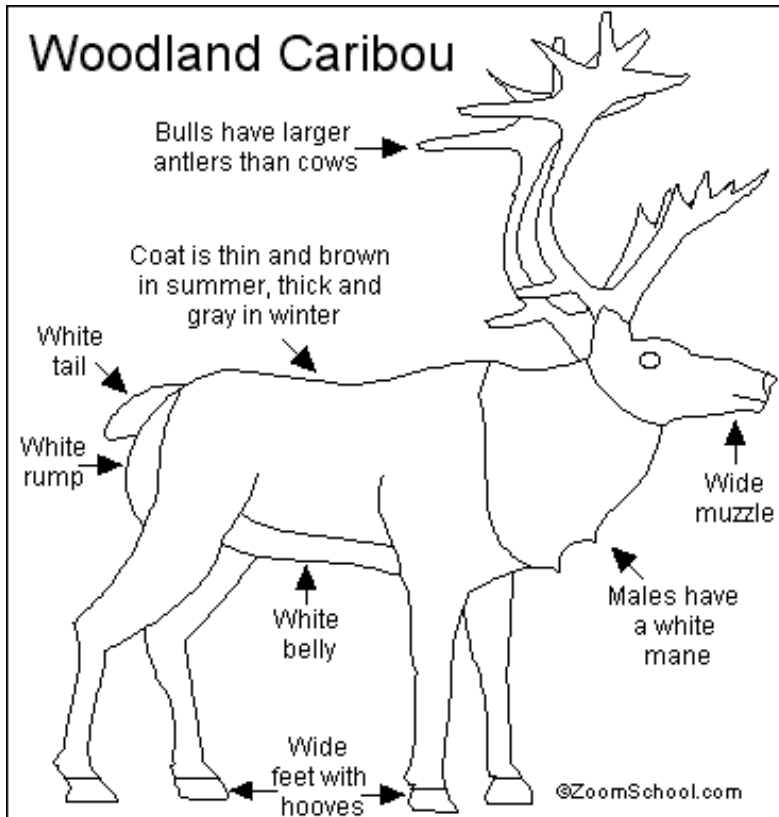
## Names

Caribou have several different names. The caribou's common name, believe it or not, is caribou or reindeer. The caribou's scientific name is *Rangifer tarandus*. A female is called a cow. The male is called a bull. The baby is called a calf. Those sure are a lot of names!

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## Description



Caribou are the only deer species in which both female and male grow antlers! Their middle body is brown. They have tan legs and antlers. Their necks are usually white. Caribou are four to five feet long from the shoulders to their tails. The average weight for an adult caribou is 240–700 pounds! A calf can weigh up to thirteen pounds. The caribou's body is really special.

[http://www.enchantedlearning.com/cgifs/Caribou\\_big\\_bw.GIFntent/uploads/prz.jpg](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/cgifs/Caribou_big_bw.GIFntent/uploads/prz.jpg)

## Habitat

Caribou live in a cold habitat. They have adapted to their cold habitat up north. The caribou live on



flat land with the shelter of trees.

Caribou eat grass, moss, willow

barrin leaves, small shrubs, berries

and lichen.

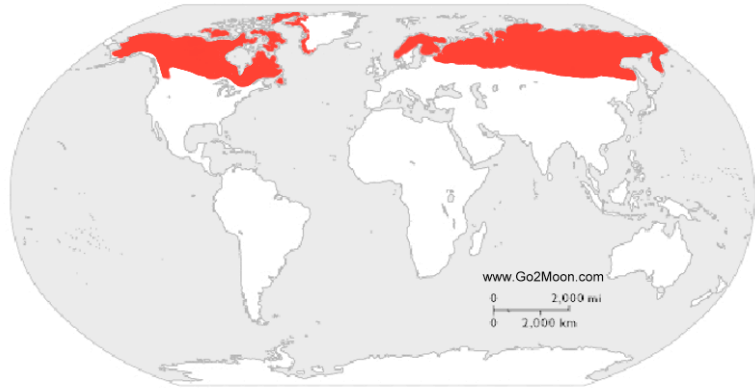
<http://wildnews.cleanwebdesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/southsalmo-across1.jpg>

## Special Abilities

Caribou have adapted to survive out in the cold. Their broad hooves let them walk on through or on top of the snow. Their thick winter coats keep them warm. Caribou have hollow hair, so when they have to cross water when they migrate, their hair traps air, making them float! It is a good thing caribou have all those great adaptations to survive out in the frozen tundra!

## Range and Population

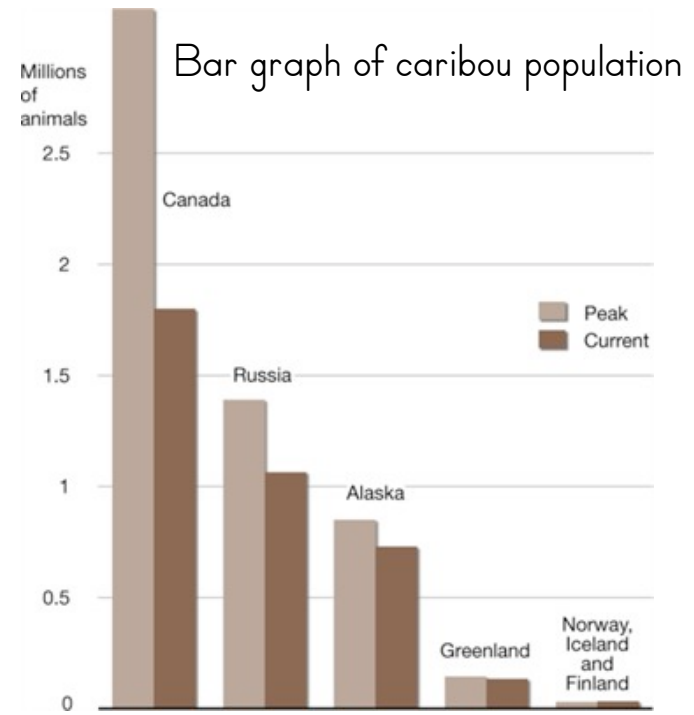
The caribou live in a lot of different places. Caribou live in northern North America, Canada, Greenland, Alaska, Ellesmore (the Arctic island), and Montana. Two of the caribou subspecies are already extinct. Their names were Taranut graphiti and Barren grand. In 1988, there were 472,000



Range map of Caribou

<http://www.go2moon.com/image/Caribou/CaribouMap.png>

caribou left. In 2006, there were only 128,000 caribou left.



[http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/thumbs/1805c933-493c-4b85-be16-ad06eb342332/media/wild-rangifer-population-trends\\_5d1f.jpg](http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/thumbs/1805c933-493c-4b85-be16-ad06eb342332/media/wild-rangifer-population-trends_5d1f.jpg)



## Threats

There are many threats to the caribou. One of the threats is climate change. There is global warm-



[http://wildlifetaxidermy.com/E-573-caribou-antlers.\\_resize.jpg](http://wildlifetaxidermy.com/E-573-caribou-antlers._resize.jpg)

ing, which is causing more freezing rain, which makes it harder for caribou to get to their food because they need to migrate to get their food. The caribou's main predator is humans. Humans are also damaging the caribou's habitat by logging and building more and more roads. Snowmobiles are also driving caribou out of their habitat. If these threats don't stop coming, the caribou's population will keep going down.



[http://galenf.com/united\\_states/athabasca/12.jpg](http://galenf.com/united_states/athabasca/12.jpg)

## Valued For

Sadly, caribou are valued for their skin, fur and meat. People eat their meat, wear the fur and skin, and also use their hides to make tents. A caribou's antlers are an attractive hunting trophy for poachers. People can make knives, fishhooks, and other small things out of the antlers. Clearly, people can use the caribou for many things.



Save the Caribou poster

[http://thepublicstudio.ca/images/made/images/work/greenpeace\\_01-\\_MG\\_7121\\_440\\_320\\_80\\_c1.jpg](http://thepublicstudio.ca/images/made/images/work/greenpeace_01-_MG_7121_440_320_80_c1.jpg)

## Solutions

Did you know that anyone can help save the caribou? Anyone can sign up to receive instant alerts and updates about big issues affecting all endangered animals, including the caribou. You can also join wildlife groups. You can make posters that make people aware of what's happening to this animal. I hope these solutions work, and I hope people use them.

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