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# SIBERIAN HORSE

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## A CLIMATE HERO



## Siberian Horse: A Climate Hero

Tara wondered who could save the permafrost from melting and decided to search the internet. The answer she found went beyond her wildest dreams: the most unusual climate hero was the Siberian Horse! According to a report by Nina Pullano in INVERSE magazine, these adorable animals may protect thawing permafrost.



**Permafrost** release more carbon dioxide into the

atmosphere. When there is a problem, there is a solution, and in this case, herds of Siberian horses may hold the answer.

When there is heavy snowfall, the permafrost covers the ground like a blanket and insulates it from cold air.

Grazing animals like horses stomp and kick up the snow, resulting in the

permafrost remaining frozen. A report published in

the journal Scientific Reports showed that over twenty years, when one

Hi!  
I am Tara



Scientists have warned that if global warming is not controlled, half of the world's permafrost will be lost by 2100.

The thawing of permafrost would



hundred animals were moved to a one square kilometer area, the snow cover was reduced by half.

Without control, the cycle of melting permafrost releasing CO2 leading to further warming which leads to more melting of permafrost releasing more CO2 would continue. Uncontrolled, this would cause the

temperature to rise by 3.8 degrees Celsius by the year 2100. However, with



intervention from Siberian horses, this

temperature could slow to 2.1

degrees Celsius. Other grazing

animals of frozen areas like the

Arctic, such as bison and

reindeer, can also help protect the

permafrost. Together, these herds of

grazing animals can help preserve around

eighty percent of the thawing soil.

Tara loved all animals and now discovered how they played a significant role in

protecting our ecosystem. She often

dreamed of visiting a rocky mountain

to see the ibex, a wild goat that

could climb an almost vertical

mountain side. She began to dream

of visiting the Dhofar mountains.



## New Words

1. **Thawing**- The process of melting or defrosting.
2. **Insulates**- To protect something with a material that prevents heat or electricity from escaping.
3. **Permafrost**- A layer of soil that is permanently frozen.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

## Comprehension

1. Where did Tara search for an answer?
2. What is Tara calling 'adorable animals'?
3. Which gas would be released by thawing of permafrost?
4. What is being compared to a blanket?
5. Nina Pullano is a: a) singer b) dancer c) writer for INVERSE
6. Which grazing animals are found in The Arctic?
7. Which place is Tara dreaming of visiting next?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

## Prompts Pair up

1. Discuss grazing animals and their diet.
2. **Permafrost Fact Sheet:** Work together with your partner to research and create a fact sheet about permafrost, including its importance, threats, and the role of Siberian horses in protecting it. Use images, diagrams, or drawings to make your fact sheet visually appealing. Share your fact sheet with your classmates and use it to spark discussion about the significance of permafrost and the need for conservation.
3. **Animal Charades:** Together with your

partner, take turns acting out different animals that help protect the environment, including the Siberian Horse. The other partner must guess the animal being acted out. After the game, discuss the various roles that each animal plays in preserving ecosystems and combating climate change.

Watch the video on the Siberian Horse using the QR code.



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