

## The winter landscape

In this landscape close to the North Pole, the winter has covered the wilderness. The Polar darkness has descended, and snow and ice cover the landscape. Only some barren mountain peaks stick out in the winter landscape. They have so steep mountain sides, that the ice and the snow cannot remain lying up there.

A few months ago the busy polar summer started in this landscape. The arctic fox wangles food in the nests of the birds or snatches the kittens of the mountain hare. The snow bunting, the Lapland bunting and the wheatear sacrificed themselves for another season to hatch out the chickens. The reindeer walks across the plains and munching the lichen and the grass.

But just as quickly this life started in early summer, just as quickly the life disappears again. The arctic fox still sniffs around down there, but a large part of the fox population now wears its white winter coat. The reindeer is trying with their hooves and the antlers of the stag to drill down to the vegetation under the snow and the ice.

Most birds are long gone. The snow buntings fly in flocks along the coast, or they have migrated the long way to the plains of North America. The wheatears have migrated the longer way from Greenland across the Atlantic Ocean to Africa.

This last day in November this landscape has taken on the bluish twilight colour. The rising sun only reaches the peaks of the highest mountains.



Winter landscape, South Greenland,  
November 2014

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Go to the Text