

Rare white reindeer photographed in Norway

7th December, 2018



A man from Norway has photographed a rare white reindeer calf while on a walk in the north of his country. Mads Nordsveen, 24, from Norway's capital city Oslo, was hiking in the mountains at the weekend. While walking through the snow, he spotted a smallish white animal and realized it

was a reindeer. Mr Nordsveen said the creature was so white, "he almost disappeared into the snow". Nordsveen described the experience as being "magical" and like a "fairy tale". He said: "The reindeer came to me very close and we looked into each other's eyes. He was very calm when he saw that I did not have bad intentions. He behaved as if he was posing for my photos. He was very curious...like a little explorer."

The photograph of the reindeer calf has gone viral on social media. It has been liked over 30,000 times since Nordsveen uploaded it on Monday. It is good luck in Scandinavian countries to see a white reindeer. Many people think it is good timing as Christmas is coming. According to folklore, Santa Claus' sleigh is pulled by eight flying reindeer. They help Santa to deliver presents to good children on Christmas Eve. However, Santa's reindeer are usually brown. A white reindeer is very rare. Their unusual appearance is caused by a genetic condition that removes colour from their fur. People can mistake such a reindeer for being an albino, but this is not the case. In the USA, reindeer are known as caribou.

Sources: bbc.com / globalnews.ca / theweathernetwork.com

Writing

We should not make small children believe that reindeer can fly. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Norway / rare / white / reindeer / capital city / mountains / animal / fairy tale / eyes / photograph / calf / viral / good timing / sleigh / appearance / genetic condition

True / False

- a) A man in Norway photographed 24 rare white reindeer. T / F
- b) The man took the photograph on an iceberg near the Arctic Circle. T / F
- c) The man said the reindeer ran and disappeared down a hole. T / F
- d) The man said the reindeer was very calm and posed for a photograph. T / F
- e) The photograph has been liked 300,000 times on social media. T / F
- f) It is good luck in Scandinavia to see a white reindeer. T / F
- g) The reindeer was white because of a problem with its genes. T / F
- h) In America, reindeer are called caribou. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. photographed | a. situation |
| 2. hiking | b. enchanting |
| 3. creature | c. looks |
| 4. magical | d. posted |
| 5. calm | e. animal |
| 6. uploaded | f. called |
| 7. presents | g. snapped |
| 8. appearance | h. relaxed |
| 9. case | i. gifts |
| 10. known as | j. walking |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about reindeer?
- b) Why are reindeer associated with Christmas?
- c) What do you think of hiking in the mountains?
- d) How good a photographer are you?
- e) Have you ever had a magical, fairytale-like experience?
- f) Is Christmas better in the snow or desert?
- g) What animals would you like to photograph?
- h) What do you think of Christmas?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. while on a walk | a. disappeared into the snow |
| 2. he spotted a smallish | b. folklore |
| 3. the creature was so white, he almost | c. gone viral |
| 4. "magical" and | d. for my photos |
| 5. He behaved as if he was posing | e. known as caribou |
| 6. The photograph of the reindeer calf has | f. in the north of his country |
| 7. good | g. by a genetic condition |
| 8. According to | h. like a "fairy tale" |
| 9. Their unusual appearance is caused | i. timing |
| 10. In the USA, reindeer are | j. white animal |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Norway?
- Why do things go viral on social media?
- What do you know about Santa delivering presents?
- What would you like for Christmas?
- What other creatures are associated with Christmas?
- What animals are good luck in your country?
- What questions would you like to ask Santa Claus?

Spelling

- Norway's apictla city Oslo
- described the experience as being liagamc
- like a tfyraiale
- I did not have bad tnntnoisei
- He was very uoriucs
- like a little olerpexr
- gone laivr on social media
- Nordsveen upedaldo it on Monday
- Many people think it is good mntiig
- They help Santa to lirdvee presents
- Their unusual praeaepcna
- caused by a itnegce condition

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. e	4. b	5. h
6. d	7. i	8. c	9. a	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Reindeer

You think a white reindeer is the cutest white animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): white polar bear, white owl or white mouse.

Role B – Polar Bear

You think a white polar bear is the cutest white animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): white reindeer, white owl or white mouse.

Role C – Owl

You think a white owl is the cutest white animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): white polar bear, white reindeer or white mouse.

Role D – Mouse

You think a white mouse is the cutest white animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): white polar bear, white owl or white reindeer.

Speaking – White animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the best white animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| • reindeer | • rabbit |
| • polar bear | • swan |
| • lion | • tiger |
| • owl | • mouse |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.