Caribou

Caribou are found in the very coldest parts of North America, Asia, and Europe. They are called reindeer when domesticated and are used to pull sleds with heavy loads. They are mammals with two layers of fur. Their fur keeps them warm and dry in the cold. Caribou have large circular hooves that spread apart as they walk on the snow. They act like snowshoes and prevent the caribou from sinking into the snow. They use their hooves as scoops to dig for food beneath the snow and ice.

Caribou are herbivores. They mostly eat lichen which is a moss that grows on the ground but will eat other plants and mushrooms.

Caribou migrate together in herds to look for food. These herds can range from 1,000-10,000 caribou! They are fast runners and can run up to 50 miles per hour and travel as far as 3,000 miles a year!

1. What helps caribou walk in the snow? ________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________

2. Describe a caribou herd. ________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________

3. When are caribou called reindeer? ________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________

**Color the caribou above.**

**Highlight the "star" words in the writing.**