

The sleds, loaded with supplies, gleamed in the pale sunlight. Rasmussen, dressed in layers of fur and leather, surveyed the scene standing on his sled's foot boards; he was ready to face the hardships.

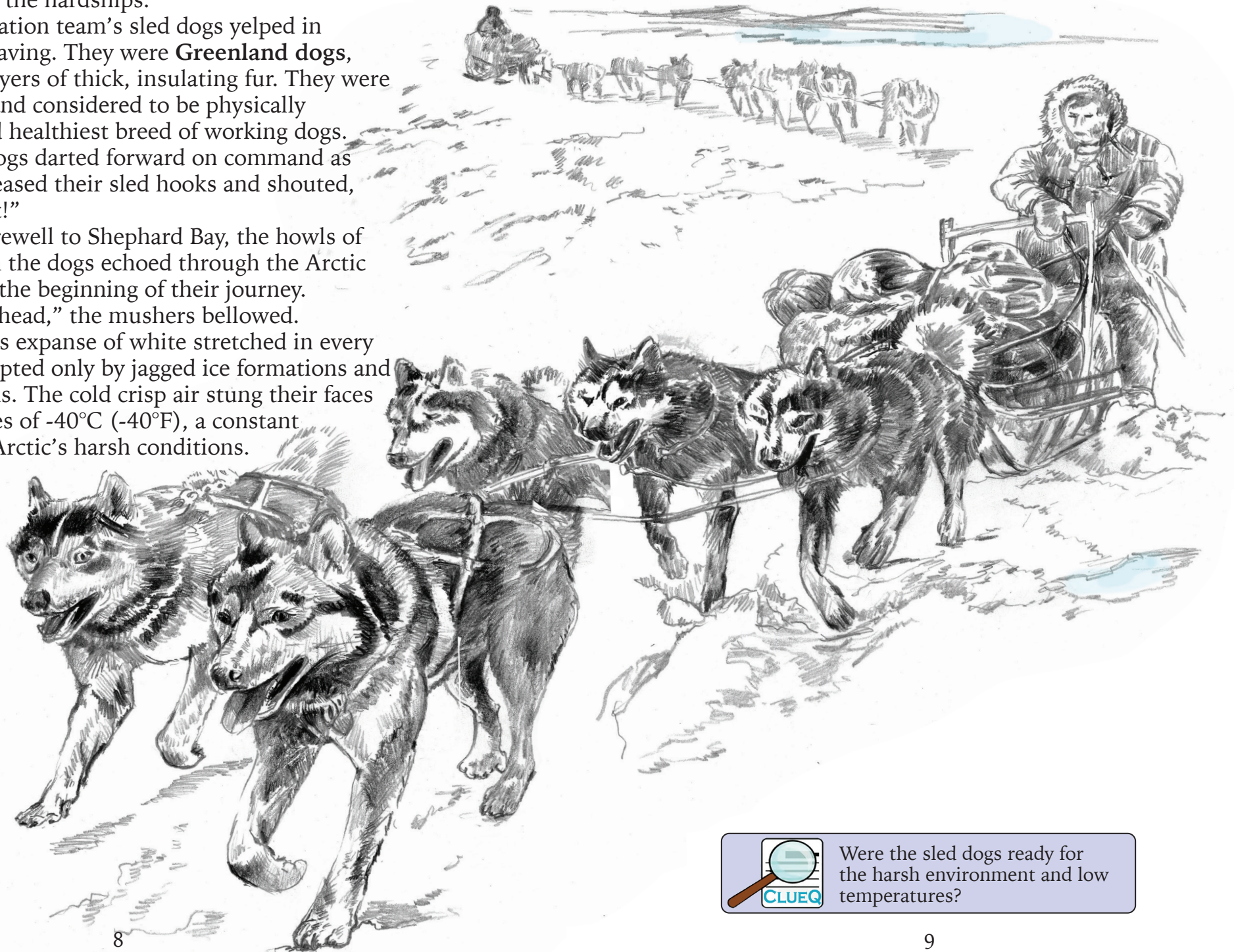
The exploration team's sled dogs yelped in anticipation of leaving. They were **Greenland dogs**, which had two layers of thick, insulating fur. They were Greenland bred and considered to be physically the strongest and healthiest breed of working dogs.

The sled dogs darted forward on command as the explorers released their sled hooks and shouted, "Ready!" "Alright!"

Bidding farewell to Shephard Bay, the howls of anticipation from the dogs echoed through the Arctic silence, marking the beginning of their journey.

"Straight ahead," the mushers bellowed.

The endless expanse of white stretched in every direction, interrupted only by jagged ice formations and distant mountains. The cold crisp air stung their faces with temperatures of -40°C (-40°F), a constant reminder of the Arctic's harsh conditions.



Were the sled dogs ready for the harsh environment and low temperatures?