

POLAR BEAR FACTSHEET

Scientific Name: *Ursus maritimus*



Did you know that Polar Bears can weigh as much as a small car?

- Male polar bears grow until they are about 8 years old, can weigh up to 800 kilograms and measure up to three metres in length, from nose to tail. Female polar bears grow until they are about 4 years old and can weigh up to 300 kilograms.
- They have five long, curved claws on each hairy foot to give them a firm grip on slippery ice.



How long do Polar Bears live?

- The lifespan of a polar bear is 15 - 20 years.

Welcome to my Home... Bring a Coat!

- Polar bears live mainly in arctic seas on offshore ice floes.
- About half of the world's polar bears live in Canada, where they range from Labrador to the Yukon and from Ellesmere Island to James Bay.

Fun Fact

Polar bears don't drink water. They get their liquids from the animals that they eat.

Are Polar Bears and Seals Friends?

- No. Ringed seals are polar bears' favourite food. The seals are usually caught at their breathing holes in the sea ice. Polar bears can eat an average of 4.4 kilograms of seal fat and meat every day.
- Polar bears also eat some fish, seabirds, and whales.

Cool Fact

A polar bear cub is no bigger than a rat when it is born.

Mama bear, Papa bear, and Baby bear...

- Polar bears are mostly solitary animals. They gather only where there are abundant food sources (e.g. feeding on large whale carcasses), or to socialize and mate during mating season. Otherwise, regular gatherings of polar bears usually consist of a mother and her cubs.
- Polar bears mate in midsummer and one to three cubs are born eight months later. The cubs drink their mom's rich milk for food.
- At about three months old, the cubs leave the den with their mother to spend their time learning important survival skills such as how to slide down snow-covered slopes, swim in icy waters, hunt and catch seals and fish. They usually stay with their mother until they are about two years old. Only female bears raise cubs.

This factsheet was produced by Greenest City with help from WWF Canada.