



Polar Bears — Giants of the Arctic Ice

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Polar bears are the **largest** land animals that eat meat on Earth. They live in the **cold** Arctic, a place always covered in snow and **ice**. Their white fur helps them hide in this frozen world. These amazing animals are built to live where almost nothing else can.

A polar bear has very **thick** fur and a **thick** layer of fat beneath its skin. This keeps the bear warm even in the most **cold** weather. Their enormous paws help them walk on **ice** and swim across the **sea**. Polar bears are **strong** swimmers and can cross very **large** stretches of open water.

Polar bears have a powerful sense of **smell**. They can **smell** a seal beneath the **ice** from almost one kilometer away. They wait quietly beside a hole in the **ice** and use their **strong** paws to grab **fish** or seals the moment those animals surface for air.

Polar bears are **large** and **strong**, but they move **slowly** on land to save energy. In the long **dark** Arctic winter, mother bears dig a **thick** snow den and give birth to tiny cubs. The cubs grow fast and stay warm inside the den.

Polar bears depend on **sea ice** to rest, hunt, and feed their young. Today, that **ice** is melting because the world is getting warmer. With less **ice**, polar bears cannot find enough **fish** and seals to eat. Keeping our world **cold** enough is the best way to protect them.

A. Vocabulary

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|----------------|--|
| 1. cold ____ | a. with little or no light |
| 2. ice ____ | b. not moving quickly; taking a long time |
| 3. large ____ | c. having a lot of power or force |
| 4. sea ____ | d. having a low temperature; not warm |
| 5. slow ____ | e. water that has frozen and become solid and hard |
| 6. smell ____ | f. very big in size |
| 7. strong ____ | g. a big area of salt water, smaller than an ocean |
| 8. thick ____ | h. to sense something by using your nose |
| 9. dark ____ | i. having a great distance between two sides; not thin |

10. fish ____

j. an animal that lives in water and breathes through gills



B. True or False

1. Polar bears are the world's largest meat-eating land animals. ____
2. Polar bears live in warm, tropical rainforests. ____
3. Polar bear fur helps them hide in snow and ice. ____
4. A polar bear's thick fur and layer of fat keep it warm. ____
5. Polar bears are poor swimmers and avoid water. ____
6. Polar bears can smell a seal from almost one kilometer away. ____
7. Polar bears run very fast on land to catch their food. ____
8. Mother polar bears give birth to cubs inside a snow den. ____
9. Melting sea ice is the biggest danger to polar bears today. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: cold, smell, strong, thick, sea

1. The Arctic is a _____ place always covered in snow and ice.
2. Polar bears can _____ a seal beneath the ice from one kilometer away.
3. A polar bear uses its _____ paws to swim and catch food.
4. Polar bears have very _____ fur and a layer of fat to stay warm.
5. Polar bears need _____ ice to rest, hunt, and raise their young.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What do polar bears look like, and where do they live?
2. How do polar bears stay warm in the freezing Arctic cold?
3. How do polar bears find and catch their food?
4. What do mother polar bears do in the dark Arctic winter?
5. Why are polar bears in danger today, and how can we help?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to see a polar bear in the wild? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think polar bears need sea ice to find food?
3. What can people do every day to help protect polar bears?



Answer Key

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

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-cold, 2-smell, 3-strong, 4-thick, 5-sea

D. Comprehension:

1. Polar bears are the world's largest meat-eating land animals. They are white, very large, and live in the cold Arctic, a place always covered in snow and ice.
2. Polar bears have very thick fur and a thick layer of fat beneath their skin. These two things together keep the bear warm even in the coldest Arctic weather.
3. Polar bears use their powerful sense of smell to find food. They can smell a seal from almost one kilometer away, then wait quietly at a hole in the ice and grab the seal or fish when it surfaces.
4. In the long, dark Arctic winter, mother polar bears dig a thick snow den and give birth to tiny cubs inside. The cubs grow fast and stay warm in the den.
5. Polar bears are in danger because sea ice is melting as the world gets warmer. With less ice, they cannot find enough food. People can help by reducing energy use to slow down global warming.