



# Polar Bear



by Dee Phillips

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**Consultants:**

**Alysa McCall, Field Programs Manager**

Polar Bears International, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Barbara Nielsen, Director of Communications**

Polar Bears International, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Kimberly Brenneman, PhD**

National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

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# Welcome to the Arctic

It's a spring morning in one of the coldest places on Earth—the **Arctic**.

A huge female polar bear crawls out of her **den**.

Her two tiny babies follow her outside.

For months, the den has protected the bears from the freezing winter weather.

Now the bear cubs follow their mother as she looks for food.





A photograph of a female polar bear and her two cubs in a snowy, wooded environment. The adult bear is in the center, facing the camera, with snow on its back. Two smaller cubs are on either side of the adult. Labels with arrows point to the adult bear and one of the cubs. A circular callout box in the top right corner contains text about polar bear weights.

female polar  
bear

An adult  
female polar bear  
weighs up to 650  
pounds (295 kg). A male  
bear may weigh 1,200  
pounds (544 kg)—as  
much as eight adult  
humans!

cub



# A Polar Bear's World

In the polar bear's Arctic home, the land is covered in ice and snow.

The ocean is so cold that part of its surface is frozen all year.

This large island of floating ice is called the Arctic ice cap.

In winter, the ice cap grows bigger as more of the ocean freezes.

Sometimes the ice joins up with the **shore**.



Where polar bears live





a polar bear  
on snowy land

In winter,  
temperatures in  
the Arctic can drop  
to  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-46^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). That's  
much colder than  
the inside of  
a freezer!

How do you think  
polar bears keep warm  
in their icy home?



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## Read More

**Kolpin, Molly.** *Polar Bears (First Facts)*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press (2012).

**Owen, Ruth.** *Polar Bear Cubs (Wild Baby Animals)*. New York: Bearport (2011).

**Shea, Therese.** *Bears*. New York: PowerKids Press (2007).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about polar bears, visit [www.bearportpublishing.com/ArcticAnimals](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/ArcticAnimals)

## About the Author

Dee Phillips lives near the ocean on the southwest coast of England. She develops and writes nonfiction and fiction books for children of all ages.

## Answers for Page 22

The finger covered with a balloon is insulated, or protected, from the icy water by the balloon. It feels less cold than the uncovered finger. The balloon acted like a polar bear's fat. The bear's fat insulates its body against icy water and cold weather. If you put two or three balloons onto your left pointer finger, it will feel even less cold!



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# Polar Bear

It's a freezing cold day in the Arctic. A huge polar bear stands next to a hole in the ice, waiting to catch a meal. The bear knows that seals are swimming in the ocean water below the ice. Eventually, a seal will pop up to take a breath of air. Then the polar bear will attack!

Inside this book, you'll discover many fascinating facts about polar bears, including how they swim, how cubs grow into adult bears, and how the bears' bodies are adapted to the extreme cold of their Arctic home.

**Arctic Fox**  
**Collared Lemming**  
**Harp Seal**

**Polar Bear**  
**Reindeer**  
**Snowshoe Hare**

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