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# Polar Bear

### by Dee Phillips

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# Welcome to the Arctic

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

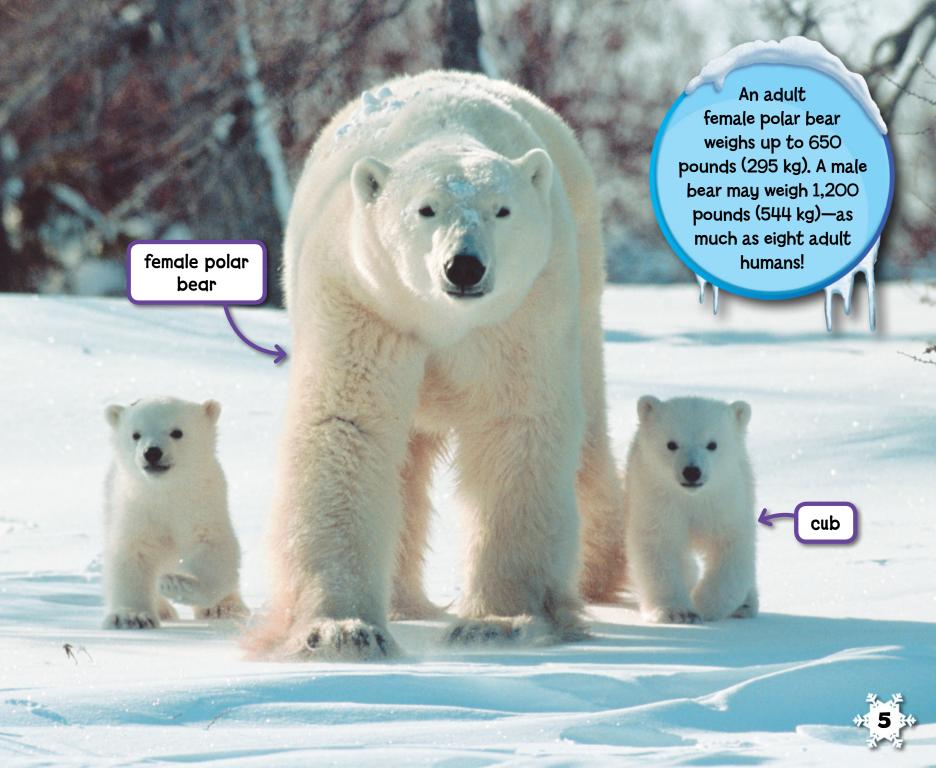
A huge female polar bear crawls out of her **den**.

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 Polar Bear's World

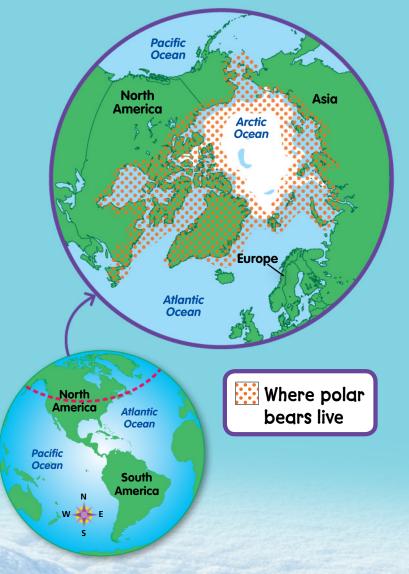
In the polar bear's Arctic home, the land is covered in ice and snow.

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**.



a polar bear on snowy land In winter, temperatures in the Arctic can drop to -50°F (-46°C). That's much colder than the inside of a freezer!

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



Arctic 4, 6–7, 15, 21 arctic foxes 11 blubber 10–11 cubs 4–5, 16–17, 18–19, 20–21 dens 4, 16, 18, 20 fat 8, 10, 19, 22 food 4, 10–11, 12–13, 14, 18–19, 20 fur 8–9, 13 mating 16 milk 18–19, 20 mother polar bears 4–5, 16–17, 18–19, 20–21

### 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). paws 9, 12, 14 seals 10–11, 12–13, 14, 20 size 5, 9, 16 swimming 14, 20 weather 6–7, 15

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

### Learn More Online

To learn more about polar bears, visit 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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