

Graphic Organizer Facts- Polar Bears

Physical Characteristics

- Thick fur to keep warm
- Fat keeps in body heat
- Average male 1,400 pounds
- Average female 650 pounds
- Fur oil repels water
- Black skin/ white looking fur
- Females up to 7 feet tall
- Males up to 10 feet tall

Adaptations

- Webbed paws for swimming
- Can store food and eat every
- Fat helps them float
- Can smell seals 20 miles away
- Rough paws help from slipping
- Back legs help them steer in water
- Wide paws prevent sinking in the snow

Young

- 450 to 650 grams when born
- Born November to April
- Drink mother milk
- Don't come out of den for months
- Stay with mothers for about 2 years
- Usually 2 cubs born at a time
- They leave their mothers and go out on their own at about 2 ½

Habitat

- Lives in holes called dens
- Lives in the Arctic
- Average temp. in winter -29 degrees
- 25 to 40 thousand in the Arctic
- Live in Canada, Norway, Alaska, Russia, and Greenland
- Habitat loss due to climate change & hunting

Food

- Only eat every few days
- Body stores food
- Hunt seals on ice at breathing holes
- Mostly eat seals but also walruses, whales, geese, bird eggs, caribou
- Excellent eyesight and hearing for hunting
- Hunt by swimming under the ice

Interesting Facts

- Eat other polar bears when no food
- They roll in the snow to keep clean
- They roll in the snow to cool down
- Polar bears do not hibernate
- Humans are their only predator
- When born are about the size of a guinea pig
- They can swim 6 miles per hour and run 24 miles per hour