

Polar Bear Fact Sheet

1. The polar bear has webbed toes that help make him a really good swimmer.
2. He has rough pads and fur on his feet to keep him from slipping on the ice.
3. Polar bears have small ears so they won't freeze.
4. They have no eyelashes so they can't collect ice. The eyes have a thin, clear, extra eyelid to protect them from bright sunlight.
5. Polar bears have an amazing sense of smell. They can smell a seal more than 3 miles away.
6. They are carnivorous. That means that polar bears eat meat - seal, walrus, small whales, fish, etc.
7. Polar bears have hollow guard hairs that are colorless but look white. These guard hairs are waterproof and trap air to help keep the bear dry and warm.
8. They have another layer of fur under the guard hairs and black skin that takes in heat from sunlight.
9. Under their skin the polar bear has 3-inches of blubber (fat) to help keep him warm.
10. Only the mother polar bear hibernates. While she is hibernating she has her cubs. The father bears do not hibernate.
11. The male or father polar bear is called a boar, the female or mother is called a sow, and the baby bear is called a cub.
12. Cubs come out of their dens when they are about 3 months old. They stay with their mothers for two years before going out to live on their own.
13. The polar bear lives in the Arctic where the native people call him Nanook.
14. Polar bears in the wild may live to be 30 years old.
15. People are the main enemy of the polar bear.