

Polar Bear Fact Sheet

Polar bears live in the Arctic circle, the region that contains the Arctic Ocean. The polar bear is part of the animal family Ursidae. What sets them apart from many other bears is that they are skilled swimmers and able to survive in frigid climates.

Every fall female polar bears build what is called a maternity den, a cave in which they hibernate and birth their young. On average, a polar bear litter is about two cubs.

Polar bear fur is translucent (another word for see-through) and as a result appears to be white. However, as they grow older their fur starts to yellow. Polar bears stay warm due because of their blubber – a thick layer of fat.

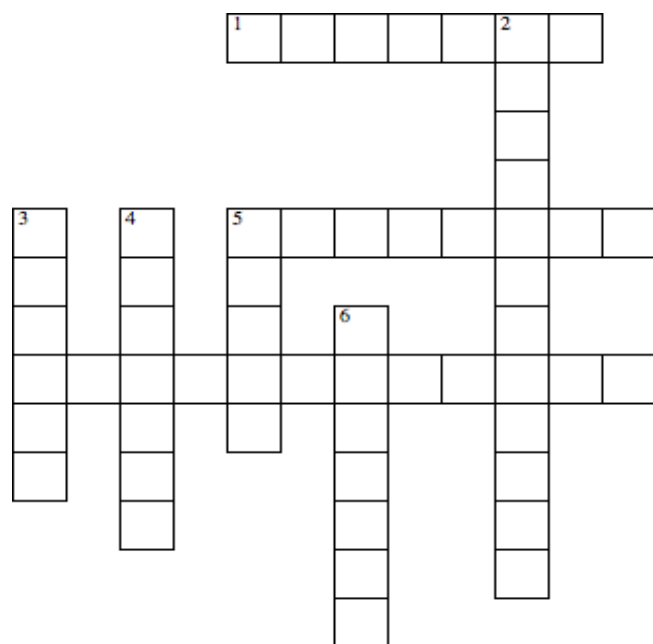
As they are carnivores (meat eaters) their diet consists primarily of seals. Polar bears are actually the largest land carnivore in the world.

The most pressing threat to the polar bear population is global warming. Due to the melting of glaciers, much of the polar bear's natural habitat is disappearing. There are under 25,000 polar bears left in the world.



Courtesy of martinclay via sxc.hu

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 They are part of this animal family.
- 5 They are skilled at this activity.
- 7 The most significant threat to the Polar Bear.

DOWN

- 2 They live in this region.
- 3 As they grow older, their fur starts to turn this color.
- 4 They stay warm because of a layer of _____.
- 5 They mostly eat this mammal.
- 6 They are the _____ land carnivore.