



# Watch Out! Polar Bears!

by Bo Grayson

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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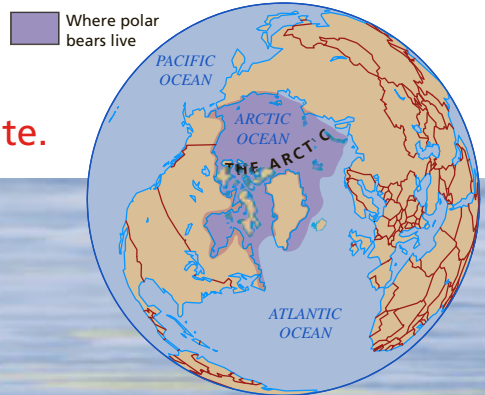
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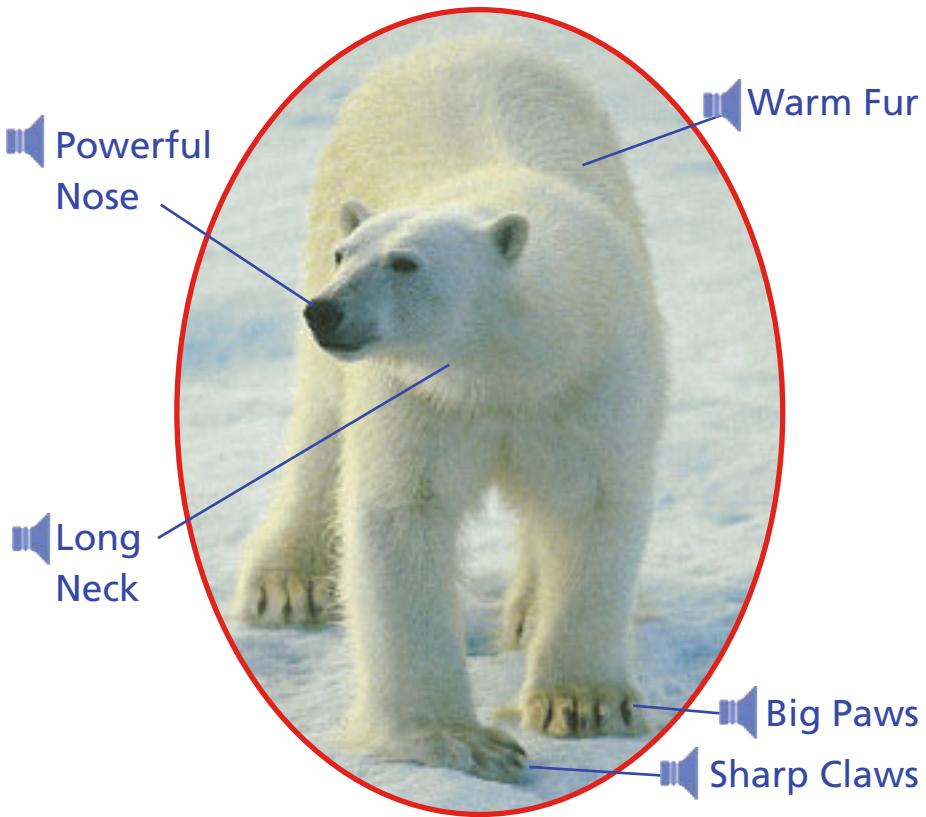
## Arctic Home


Polar bears live in the Arctic, near the North Pole. The **climate** there is very cold. It is not an easy place to live.

 The Arctic has a cold climate.



 This diagram shows the parts of a polar bear's body.



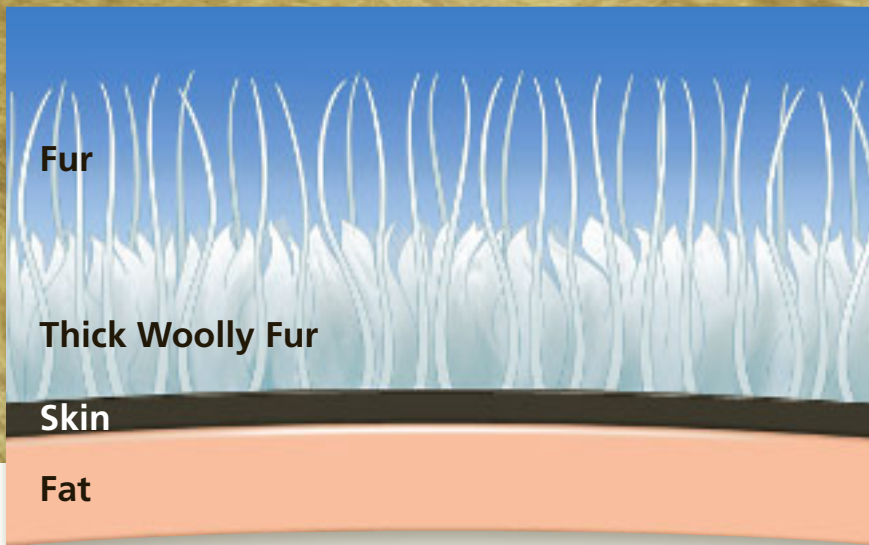
 But polar bears are very good at living in the cold. Their bodies are built to survive in the Arctic.

## Big Bears

Polar bears are huge animals. They can weigh more than 1,000 pounds. They are taller than the tallest person. Some polar bears are almost 10 feet tall when standing up on their back legs.

 A polar bear stands up.





Four layers cover a polar bear's body.

## Staying Warm

A polar bear's body is covered by a **layer** of thick fur. It also has a layer of fat under its skin. The fat and fur keep the bear warm.

A bear might also have a home, or **shelter**, in the snow. The shelter helps to keep the bear warm.

## 🔊 Staying Cool

A polar bear's body can stay cool, too. A polar bear can get **overheated** when the weather gets warmer in the summer. It gets rid of heat through its nose, paws, and even its mouth.

🔊 Running can make a polar bear hot.

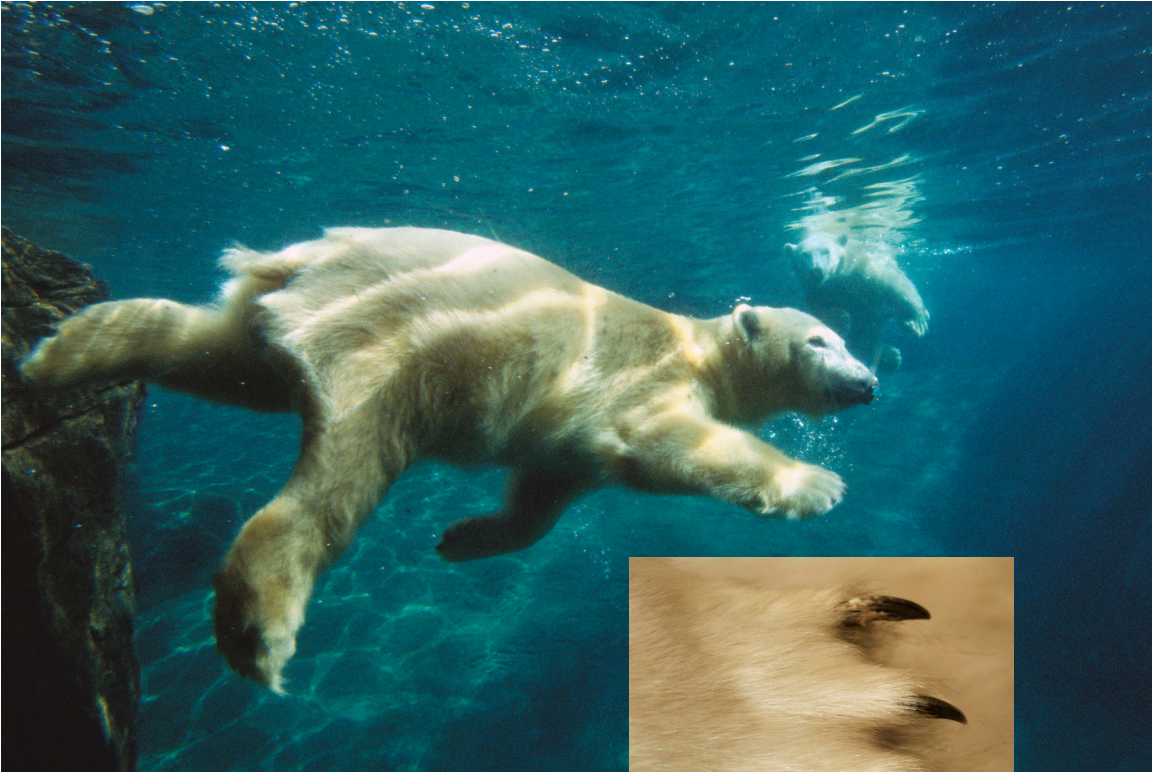





 Polar bears have special feet, or paws.

## Walking on Ice and Snow


A polar bear's feet help it walk and run on ice and snow. Its huge paws act like snowshoes. They spread out wide and keep the bear from falling through ice and snow. A polar bear's paws also have tiny bumps. These bumps keep the bear from slipping on the ice.

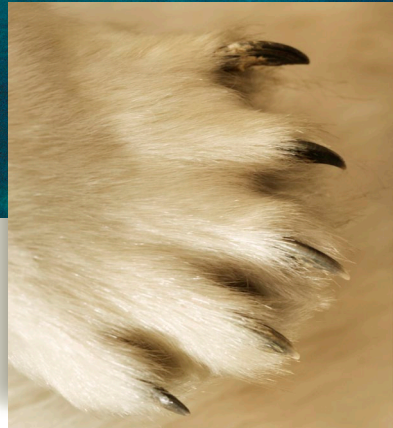



 Polar bear paws make good paddles.

## Great Swimmers

Polar bears are great swimmers. They have strong legs that help them paddle through the Arctic waters.

 Polar bears have skin between the toes on their paws. The skin makes their feet work like paddles in the water.



 The bears stretch their long necks to lift their heads above the water. This lets them look for seals on the ice.

 A polar bear sticks its head up.



## Staying Dry

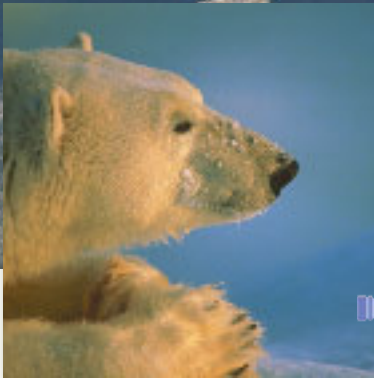
A polar bear's fur also helps it to stay dry when it swims. It has oil in its fur. The oil keeps the icy water from getting close to the bear's skin.

 Oil in its fur keeps the polar bear's skin dry.





 seals




 Seals are polar bears' favorite food.

## Hunting for Food

A huge polar bear needs a lot of food to live. Its powerful nose helps it to smell and find food. A polar bear's nose can smell seals that are 20 miles away!



 Polar bears have big, sharp claws.

 A polar bear's long, strong claws help it hunt for food. These claws are perfect for grabbing seals. Its sharp teeth help it make a meal of a seal.

🔊 A polar bear's fur also helps the bear hunt. It makes the white bear hard to see in the snow. This lets polar bears creep up on seals without being seen by the seals. Of course, no seal wants an unexpected visit from a polar bear!

🔊 Polar bears are good hunters.



## **Watch Out!**

So if you are ever in the Arctic, watch out! Somewhere on the snow and ice, there might be a huge polar bear.

Stay far, far away.

And be happy you're not a seal!

 **A polar bear family stands on the ice.**



## Responding



### **TARGET SKILL** Main Idea and Details

A polar bear's body keeps it warm. Copy the chart below. Fill in one more detail that tells how a polar bear survives the cold.

**Main Idea:**

A polar bear's body keeps it warm.

**Detail:** It is covered with thick fur.

**Detail:** ?



### **Write About It**

**Text to World** A polar bear would probably not be a good pet! Write a paragraph persuading a friend that polar bears are not good pets. Give at least two reasons.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

climate

colony

constant

gliding

layer

overheated

region

shelter

unexpected

wilderness



### TARGET SKILL

**Main Ideas and Details** Tell important ideas and details about a topic.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Infer/Predict** Use clues to figure out more about the selection.



**GENRE Informational text** gives factual information about a topic.

**Level:** L

**DRA:** 24

**Genre:**

Informational

**Strategy:**

Infer/Predict

**Skill:**

Main Ideas and Details

**Word Count:** 602

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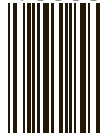
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