

POLAR BEAR



Conservation Status:
Threatened

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *maritimus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 330 - 1,760 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 6 - 10 feet

Height: up to 5 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: up to 25 years in the wild

Gestation: 6 months

Number of young: 1 to 4

Range: Alaska, Canada, Norway, Greenland, Russia

Diet: Carnivore - eats seals, caribou, walrus and beached whales

DID YOU KNOW?

- A polar bear's nose is so sensitive that it can smell a seal on the ice up to 20 miles away!
- A polar bear's hair is not white, but is instead a clear, hollow tube filled with air.
- A common misconception is that polar bears eat penguins. This is not true. Polar bears inhabit the Arctic regions of the world and all species of penguin are found below the equator.

Ecology & Conservation

Polar Bears and their prey have evolved to live in extreme conditions. They depend on Arctic sea ice to hunt, reproduce and rest. Today, polar bear populations are facing unprecedented threats due to climate change. Although the ultimate effects of climate change on polar bears are not certain, it is recognized that even small changes to the climate could have a profound effect on these bears.