

Polar Bear Quiz

PHOTO © R&C BUCHANAN.



1. What color is the polar bear's skin?

- A. White
- B. Yellow
- C. Black
- D. Beige

2. A polar bear can sense prey at a distance of how many miles?

- A. 1 mile
- B. 2 miles
- C. 5 miles
- D. 20 miles

3. Polar bears are found in how many countries around the world?

- A. 5
- B. 7
- C. 10
- D. 15

4. Polar bears evolved from which other bear?

- A. Brown bear
- B. Black bear
- C. Panda bear
- D. Sun bear

5. How long can a polar bear hold its breath underwater?

- A. 1 minute
- B. 2 minutes
- C. 5 minutes
- D. 10 minutes

6. What is the polar bear's favorite food?

- A. Arctic hare
- B. Caribou
- C. Walrus
- D. Ringed seal

7. How much do polar bear cubs weigh at birth?

- A. 1-1½ pounds
- B. 3-4 pounds
- C. 10-11 pounds
- D. 15-16 pounds

8. What color is the polar bear's fur?

- A. White
- B. Yellow
- C. Beige
- D. Clear

9. What is the biggest threat facing polar bears?

- A. Oil drilling
- B. Poaching
- C. Melting sea ice
- D. Pollution

10. How many polar bears are left in the wild?

- A. 10,000 to 15,000
- B. 20,000 to 25,000
- C. 40,000 to 45,000
- D. 75,000 to 80,000

Answers on next page



Conservation through Research and Education
www.polarbearsinternational.org

1. What color is the polar bear's skin?

Answer:

C. Black

Polar bear skin is actually black. Scientists used to believe that it was black to allow the bear to soak up as much heat as possible from the sun. However, they now understand this is not so, and they have yet to determine what makes the bear's skin so dark. But not to worry - a 4½ -inch thick layer of fat and heavy fur on its feet help the polar bear stay warm.

2. A polar bear can sense prey at a distance of how many miles?

Answer:

D. 20 miles

A polar bear has an acute sense of smell, and is able to detect prey from 20 miles away, even when hidden by snowdrifts or ice.

3. Polar bears are found in how many countries around the world?

Answer:

A. 5

Regardless of what you see on TV, polar bears only live in the Northern Hemisphere, and in only five countries. They are found in Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia, and in Alaska in the U.S.

4. Polar bears evolved from which other bear?

Answer:

B. Brown bear

Over 200,000 years ago, a population of brown bears started to live on the ice looking for seals to eat. They evolved into the polar bear of today.

5. How long can a polar bear hold its breath underwater?

Answer:

B. 2 minutes

Polar bears are great swimmers! With their paddle-like broad forepaws, they can swim 6½ miles per hour and can stay submerged for about 2 minutes.

6. What is the polar bear's favorite food?

Answer:

D. Ringed seal

A polar bear's favorite food is ringed seals, usually young

ones. But polar bears will also eat a myriad of other foods, including bearded seals, walrus, birds, bird eggs, other small mammals, crabs, starfish, grasses, mushrooms, algae, and even dead animals!

7. How much do polar bear cubs weigh at birth?

Answer:

A. 1-1½ pounds

Weighing in at 1 to 1½ pounds, polar bear cubs are born in December or January. After they leave their den in March or April, they will weigh 22-33 pounds. As adults, they'll weigh up to 1500 pounds or more and stand 8 to 10 feet tall.

8. What color is the polar bear's fur?

Answer:

D. Clear

The Polar bear's fur is clear. Light reflects off of the hollow, straw-shaped hairs, making them appear white. Sometimes the bear's hair can appear yellow because of staining, and sometimes polar bears in zoos in a warmer climate grow algae inside of their hairs, giving them a greenish tint.

9. What is the biggest threat facing polar bears?

Answer:

C. Melting sea ice

Because of climate change, melting sea ice is causing a reduction in places for the polar bear to live, hunt, and raise their young. In addition, because there is less ice and more water, they have to swim longer distances and for longer times, causing many bears to drown. And to make things worse, the polar bear's prey is also in danger from melting sea ice, making food scarce for the bears.

10. How many polar bears are left in the wild?

Answer:

B. 20,000 to 25,000

While the U.S. Dept. of the Interior added the polar bear to the Threatened Species list this year – and this is a positive step – this in itself will not stop climate change or its consequences. It is up to us all to make the changes necessary to save the magnificent polar bear, as well as all creatures on this planet, from extinction.