



POLAR BEAR

Ursus maritimus



The polar bear is well-adapted for a cold, aquatic life. It has much smaller ears than other species of bear, to prevent heat loss, and the bottom of its feet are covered with fur, both for insulation and to provide traction on the ice. The forepaws are broad and make excellent paddles while swimming. The coat of the polar bear, which is yellowish-white, is the main source of protection from the cold arctic weather. The polar bear is a solitary animal except when mating. Polar bears spend about two-thirds of their time either sleeping, lying, or waiting. The rest of their time is spent traveling and hunting.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Polar bears can grow to lengths of up to eight feet.

WEIGHT

An adult polar bear weighs between 500 and 1,700 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The polar bear is a carnivore. It tends to hunt seals, walruses, and seabirds.

HABITAT

The polar bear is found in arctic regions, especially on the pack ice of the Arctic Ocean. It is considered by some to be a marine mammal, since it spends a lot of its time in the ocean.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The polar bear is found in the arctic regions of North America, Europe, and Asia.

FUN FACT

Underneath the polar bear's white fur is a layer of black skin. This black skin tends to absorb sunlight, which helps the polar bear stay warm in its cold environment.