

Polar Bear Facts

- **The polar bear is a marine mammal.** Its scientific name is *Ursus maritimus*, meaning “sea bear.”
- **Polar bears live in the Arctic regions of five countries:** Greenland, Norway, Canada, Russia, and the U.S.
- **Polar bears are descended from brown bears** isolated in the Arctic 150,000 years ago. Their bodies grew bigger for protection from the cold and their snouts grew longer so they could smell prey better.
- **They are strong swimmers and have blubber up to 4 inches thick**, for buoyancy as well as warmth. Their large feet act as paddles and help spread their weight for walking on ice.
- **They are so well adapted to the Arctic that they are more likely to overheat than suffer from cold.** Two layers of insulating fur, and their small ears and tails help prevent heat loss.



Polar bears are the world’s largest land carnivore—up to 10 feet tall!

Their 12-inch-wide paws enable them to run fast—up to 25 mph!



A scene from the new IMAX® documentary *To The Arctic*.

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- **Their white fur is actually transparent with no white pigment.** It is the reflection of the sun that causes the fur to appear white.
- **They depend on floating platforms of sea ice to survive.** The bears use these platforms for hunting ringed seals, their favorite prey.
- **They have curved, non-retractable claws, and bumps on the pads of their feet** so they don’t slip while walking on ice.
- **Polar bears are born blind and toothless in a den built by their mother.** They are usually born as twins. They spend a few months in the den, growing rapidly from their mother’s rich milk.
- **A mother polar bear stays with her cubs for about 2.5 years**, teaching them how to hunt and survive on the sea ice.
- **Aside from mothers and cubs, polar bears don’t winter in dens like other bears.** They can enter a state of “walking hibernation” by reducing their metabolic rate while staying active.



A MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILM
FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND IMAX CORPORATION

See the IMAX® film, *To The Arctic*, the first co-production from Warner Bros. Pictures, MacGillivray Freeman Films, and IMAX Corporation, opening exclusively in select IMAX theatres starting April 20th, 2012. Presented by One World One Ocean.

Read the companion book, *To The Arctic*, featuring photographs by award-winning wildlife photographer Florian Schulz. Foreword by Dr. Sylvia Earle. www.welcometotheArctic.org



The Arctic Ice Cap is shrinking each summer—and by 2050 or earlier will be reduced to a small fringe on the coast of Canada and Greenland. Only about 20,000 polar bears remain, and their survival is in jeopardy.