

Winter



R. & C. BUCHANAN

BEAR TREK

family (recommended ages: 5 years and older).

We use an artificial number to show weight gain and loss, but the situations are based upon scientific research. For more information on how to play and to trace your own game piece, see inside back cover.



Hudson Bay



V. H. BECK

7

Fall

FINISH
Tourists come on a Tundra Buggy®, you have your picture taken, and they all become supporters of polar bear conservation efforts.

START
Hudson Bay begins to freeze. Go seal hunting. Gain 20 pounds.

Ice isn't solid, and you fall through. Back to start.

Adult female goes to her den to give birth. Skip a turn.

Ice freezes early and seal hunting is good. Roll the die and gain 10 times the number.

A large male bear is in the area. Retreat back to start. (All but other adult males).

You find a half-eaten seal and eat the blubber. Gain 12 pounds.

You find a seal's breathing hole and catch a seal. Gain 18 pounds.

If you are an adult male, a hunter chases you. Lose 5 pounds.

You find a seal's breathing hole, wait for the seal to come ashore and you washes up on a beluga whale. Gain 25 pounds.

Sneak up on a walrus and capture the young. Gain 14 pounds.

Walk 50 miles looking for a seal's breathing hole. Lose 8 pounds.

Stalk a walrus, but it sees you and slides into the water before you can catch it. Lose 3 pounds.

You swim from ice floe to ice floe for 30 miles without catching a seal. Lose 6 pounds.



R. & C. BUCHANAN

THE POLAR BEAR TREK

Play this fun boardgame on pages 6-7!

This is just a game.

In real life, the Hudson Bay polar bears maintain their weight during the winter season until spring when the bears feast to gain extra weight for the summer time when they do not eat. Each day during the summer an average bear loses 2 pounds per day. The pressure to find food increases as the winter approaches. These polar bears gather near Churchill in anticipation of the ice forming and hunting anew.

Number of Players: 2 - 6

Materials Needed:

1. Paper and pencil to keep score. Each player can record how much weight they gain or assign a master scorekeeper.
2. One die (borrow from another board game).
3. Polar bear game piece. Make your own by tracing the bear on this sheet.

How to Play:

- Roll the die to determine the sex and age of your bear. (Males could be odd numbers and females even numbers. Subadults (ages 1-5) could be odd numbers and adults could be even numbers.)
- Roll the die again—the highest number thrown goes first.
- To start, roll the die and move your bear forward the number of spaces. Follow the directions on the board.
- If your bear lands on the same square as another bear here are a few behaviors:
 - Subadults always yield to adults and move back one space.
 - If both bears are male and subadults OR both are adults they play fight. The highest roll is the winner and stays on that square. The other player moves back one space.
 - If one bear is male and the other is adult female, she will likely have cubs and will ferociously defend her young. Roll the die, the high number stays at the square, the low number retreats back one space.

Surviving is Winning

How did your bear do? In order for the Hudson Bay bears to survive the summer they must gain about 300 pounds. For pregnant females to survive and nurse their cubs they must gain over 600 pounds before the ice breaks up. You may find that none of the bears in the game gained enough weight. Inexperience in hunting and surviving and consequently starving is not unusual. The arctic environment is harsh and unforgiving.



Trace this polar bear on your own paper and cut out for your game piece!

Answers to Packing List Activity, pg. 7

Everything on the list except the following should be packed: Water, nylon tent, canned goods, and a flashlight. Here is why:

- Don't waste space packing water — it surrounds you in the Arctic. Snow and ice are melted for cooking and drinking. But not a shower!
- A nylon tent with a floor holds too much humidity from people and damp clothes. The canvas tent without a floor is better, but you better have packed the caribou skins to sleep on!
- The handsaw you packed isn't for cutting wood for fuel — there aren't any trees. Rather it is for carving snow blocks to make a wind break for the tent.
- Canned goods freeze and you know what happens if you put a can in the freezer — it can explode as the food expands in the confined space of the can.
- The lantern provides both heat and light. Unless you can keep a flashlight next to your body, it is too cold for the batteries to work.

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PBI was founded in 1992 by wildlife photographer Dan Guravich, a Canadian native who was internationally known for his work with polar bears.

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