

POLAR BEAR FUN FACTS

POLAR BEAR FAMILIES

- Polar bear cubs stay with their mother till they are 2 years old.
- Polar bear mothers usually have two cubs, although sometimes they have one or three.
- Polar bear cubs leave the den when they are three months old.
- After they leave the den, cubs live out on the ice with their mother. During severe storms, the mother may make a temporary den in the snow.
- Polar bear milk is high in fat content. It is the only food the cubs will have for a long time. They grow quickly and add a layer of protective fat to help them survive the cold.
- Polar bear milk is some of the richest in the world, with 30-40% fat content. Human milk is only about 4% fat.
- Once cubs are strong enough, they will follow their mother to hunting grounds from 30 to 100 miles away.
- Once they are 4-5 years old, a female breeds once every 3 years.
- Polar bears greet each other by claspng muzzles.
- Polar bears are carnivores, which means they eat meat. Their favorite food is seals because the seals supply a lot of blubber. The bears need to eat blubber to build up their own layer of fat to survive in the Arctic.
- Cubs can travel up to 12 miles per day.
- Since there are three adult males to every breeding female, competition between males is fierce.

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- Polar bears spend as much time as possible on the sea ice looking for food. They spend months wandering across the frozen surface of the Arctic seas.
- On the snow and ice, polar bears' large paws work like snowshoes. Even though they can weigh as much as a small car, they can walk on ice that is too thin for humans to cross.
- Aside from mothers and cubs, polar bears are solitary animals that usually live and hunt alone.
- Polar bears' long heads and muzzles, or noses, give them a very strong sense of smell. They can smell seals and other prey over three miles away.
- Polar bears have massive legs that are useful for hunting but take a lot of energy to move. Their slow, lumbering walk helps conserve energy.

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- Polar bear cubs love to play, often tumbling over their mother, but never getting too far from her.
- Polar bears are the largest land predator in the world. Adult males can be 10 feet long and stand 13 feet high when on their hind legs. They can weigh as much as 1750 lbs.
- While polar bears can appear to be pale yellow or snowy white, their hair is actually hollow tubes. The skin beneath is black.