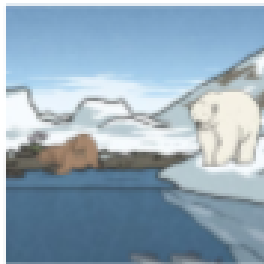


# Polar Animals

## Polar Bears

Polar bears are very large, meat-eating mammals that can be found in the Arctic. Mammals are animals with fur and warm blood. Fully-grown polar bears can measure over 2.5m long and weigh around 700kg. They are not like other bears because they spend most of their lives swimming and hunting on ice for food. They only come onto land to have babies.

Polar bear cubs stay in their dens for up to five months after they are born and stay with their mums for up to 2 years after that.



### Wow!

Polar bears are strong swimmers, using their huge feet like paddles to push through the water. They can swim for hours to get from one piece of ice to another.

Polar bears live at the very top of our planet, and it is bitterly cold there. Water and steam will freeze almost instantly in the Arctic in winter. Thankfully, polar bears are adapted for this environment. They have a thick layer of fat which keeps heat trapped inside their bodies. They also have a thick coat that keeps them warm and also helps them to blend in with the snow. Despite how it might look, a polar bear's fur isn't really white. It's actually transparent (see-through) and it reflects light to look white.

