

First Nations Math

Activity 3 - The Polar Bear

Polar bears live in the far north where the weather is very cold in the winter and warm in the summer. This arctic land is so cold that the ocean freezes, tall trees cannot grow and the sun never shines in the winter and never sets in the summer. Polar bears thrive in this environment and are called the true “rulers of the north”.

Polar bears live in the northern parts of Russia (Siberia), the United States (Alaska), Denmark (Greenland), Norway and Canada.

In these arctic regions the weather can be as cold as -50 degrees Celsius in the winter, and as warm as 10 degrees Celsius in the summer. The thick fur coat of polar bears helps to keep them warm in the winter. Their white coat helps them blend in to the whiteness that surrounds them and helps them hunt. Polar bears like to eat seals, but they also eat seaweed and eggs in the warmer months.

The Inuit living in the arctic hunt the polar bear to obtain its skin and meat that are vital to their own comfort and survival. They call the bear Nanook. Native hunters consider the polar bear to be wise and powerful.

Polar bears are huge animals. Did you know that the males are much bigger than the females? An adult male polar bear can weigh as much as 1,400 pounds, while a female can weigh up to 550 pounds. Polar bears can walk on all fours but they can also stand on two feet. A large adult male can measure 10 feet in length.



Can you believe THIS is math?

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Activity 3 - The Polar Bear - *continued*

Activity Questions:

1. How many countries do polar bears inhabit?
2. The weather in the arctic varies from winter to summer. How much warmer is it in the summer than the winter?
3. What is the difference in weight between a male and a female polar bear?
4. Combine the weight of some friends or your family. Does it add up to the weight of a female polar bear? What about a male? What is the weight difference between the groups you measured and a male polar bear?
5. Measure how tall you are. How much taller is a male polar bear? Measure the height of everyone in your house. Does anyone come close to the male polar bear's height?



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