

Get Curious! Animal Senses

Smell



Polar bear

Polar bears live in the Arctic. They live on the ice and snow and use ice-platforms to hunt seals, their main food source. Polar bears have black skin and although their fur appears white, it is actually transparent. Each hair is a clear, hollow tube which reflects the sun's light onto their skin, helping to keep them warm.

Polar bear cubs

Around the age of four or five a female polar bear can start having babies called cubs. Before the cubs are born, the female will dig a cave in the snow. She gives birth and looks after the cubs here during the winter and doesn't emerge with them until the spring.



Did you know?

Polar bears have a very good sense of smell which they use to find their prey. A polar bear can smell a seal on the ice 20 miles (32 kilometres) away, and can smell a seal's breathing hole in the ice more than half a mile away.

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I wonder...

Using the picture, what things could you wonder about? There doesn't need to be an answer! Here are some examples:

- I wonder where the bears live.
- I wonder how cold it is.
- I wonder what the bears are looking at.
- I wonder how old the cubs are.

Talk together

- Describe the scene.
- Talk about what to wear when going out in the snow.
- Discuss whether you'd want to go there and why.
- Share ideas about what made the ripple in the water.



Ideas for home



SENSORY: Feel the coldness of an ice cube. Put an ice cube in a bowl. Feel how cold it is. You could freeze small toys in the ice cubes and watch as the ice around them melts.

DRAMA: Imagine walking through the snow and ice. Put on your boots and coat, hat and gloves and imagine you're lifting your feet through the deep snow. Keep an eye out for those polar bears!

MUSIC: Sing 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.