

# **UNIT OVERVIEW**

**“Polar Bears”** is a two week language arts unit intended for use with Grade One/Two children who have developed some independent reading and writing skills. It can be used to further strengthen the children’s reading and writing skills. Throughout this unit, children are involved in activities that focus their attention on language and how it is used. They brainstorm, study words, alphabetize, rhyme, use descriptive words, categorize words, read, answer questions in complete sentences, and complete writing activities. They are encouraged to use their knowledge of reading strategies to help them read the polar bears fact cards.

A display of books about polar bears should be set up in the classroom. The books motivate the children and encourage them to read for enjoyment and for information. Children read these books in their spare time and during silent reading.

## **Section One: Lesson Plans**

Section One contains two weeks of lesson plans. The lesson plans describe the different teaching strategies for using the activities in each day’s lesson. Each lesson includes a spelling activity, a brainstorming activity, a study of new words, work in the student booklet, a writing activity, work at the learning center, playing the polar bears trivia game, and a parent page.

## **Section Two: Student Booklets**

Section Two includes a student booklet that is ready to be photocopied for student use. Every page includes four questions about one of the polar bears fact cards that the children read in class. The children are encouraged to answer the questions in their student booklets using complete sentences.

## **Section Three: Parent Pages**

Section Three includes ten parent pages. The children take home a parent page at the end of each day’s lesson. The parent pages reinforce what the children learn each day. They are meant to make the parents aware of what their children are learning in school and should only take five to ten minutes each evening to complete.

### Do polar bears belong to the bear family?



1. Do polar bears belong to the bear family?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where do polar bears spend their time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do we know polar bears are curious animals?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do polar bears do alone?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### How do polar bears get their food?

Polar bears are excellent hunters. Their white fur makes it easy for them to hide in the snow. They can sneak up on seals because their white fur helps hide them. Polar bears sometimes ride on chunks of ice when they are hunting. Polar bears can hunt underwater also. They can stay underwater for up to two minutes. They have hollow, oily hairs on top of their fur. These hairs help the polar bears to float.

### How do polar bears move?

Polar bears move fast, even though they are big animals. They can run up to 40 kilometres per hour. Polar bears can run fast enough to catch a reindeer. Polar bears are good swimmers. They are the best swimmers of all the different kinds of bears. Polar bears close their noses and open their eyes when they are swimming under the water. The front legs move the polar bear through the water. The back legs drag behind the polar bears to help them steer. The huge front paws make good paddles for swimming.

### GROUP WORD CARDS

polar
bear
strong
powerful
curious

### SPELLING LISTS

#### Week 1 – List A

seal  
shores  
float  
cold  
ice  
snow  
land  
water  
hunt  
swim

#### Week 1 – List B

bear  
strong  
slender  
Arctic  
hunter  
swimmer  
winter  
family  
alone  
belong

#### Week 1 – List C

polar  
powerful  
curious  
reindeer  
eyesight  
underwater  
hibernate  
protected  
animal  
kilometre

#### Week 2 – List A

look  
smell  
fur  
feet  
paws  
thick  
grass  
den  
cubs  
food

#### Week 2 – List B

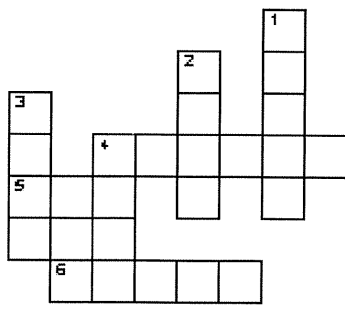
white  
soles  
heavy  
creamy  
attack  
chunk  
hollow  
catch  
paddle  
mother

#### Week 2 – List C

enemies  
leave  
themselves  
Eskimos  
minutes  
walrus  
favourite  
stomach  
hungry  
teaches

## CROSSWORD PUZZLES

### Week 1 – List A

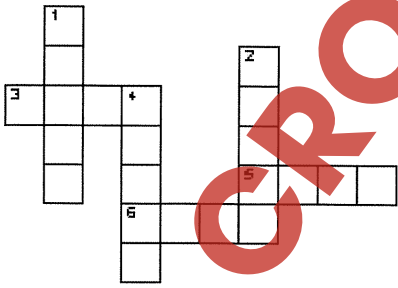


- ACROSS**
- 4 Polar Bears live on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Arctic Ocean.
- 5 Polar bears ride on chunks of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Oily hairs help polar bears to \_\_\_\_\_.

- DOWN**
- 1 Polar bears can swim fast in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Look at the \_\_\_\_\_ fall from the sky!
- 3 Sometimes polar bears like to go for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The \_\_\_\_\_ swam away under the water.

float ice seal shores  
snow swim water

### Week 2 – List A



- ACROSS**
- 3 Polar bears use their \_\_\_\_\_ for paddles when they swim.
- 5 Polar bear \_\_\_\_\_ are born in a den.
- 6 Polar bears \_\_\_\_\_ for chunks of ice to ride.

- DOWN**
- 1 Sometimes polar bears eat \_\_\_\_\_, berries, and plants.
- 2 Some chunks of ice are very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Polar bears have a good sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

cubs grass look paws  
smell thick

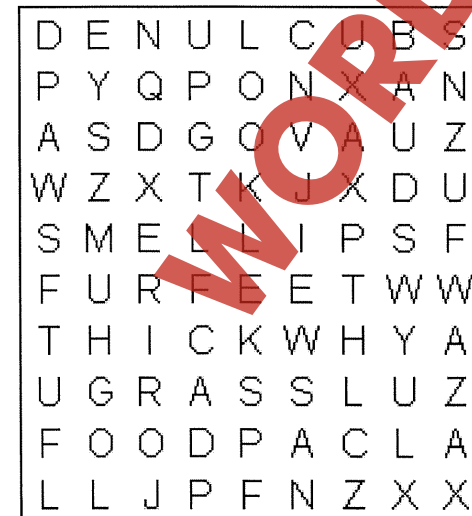
## WORD SEARCH PUZZLES

### Week 1 – List A



seal  
shores  
float  
cold  
ice  
snow  
land  
water  
hunt  
swim

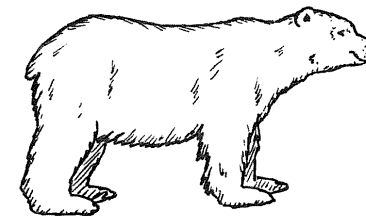
### Week 2 – List A



look  
smell  
fur  
feet  
paws  
thick  
grass  
den  
cubs  
food

## POLAR BEARS TRIVIA GAME

What family do polar bears belong to?	They belong to the bear family.
What colour is a polar bear's fur?	A polar bear's fur is creamy white.
Where do polar bears live?	They live in the Arctic.
What is the polar bears' favourite food?	The polar bears' favourite food is seals.
What do polar bears sometimes ride when they are hunting?	Polar bears sometimes ride chunks of ice when they are hunting.



## UNIT TEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

Arctic bear dens man seals

- Polar bears live in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ are the polar bears' favourite food.
- Mother polar bears hibernate in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Polar bears belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the polar bears' worst enemy.

- B. Print two words that describe each typed word below:

Arctic \_\_\_\_\_

fur \_\_\_\_\_

cub \_\_\_\_\_

ice \_\_\_\_\_

den \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Put the following words into ABC order:

polar bear cub ice Arctic

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_