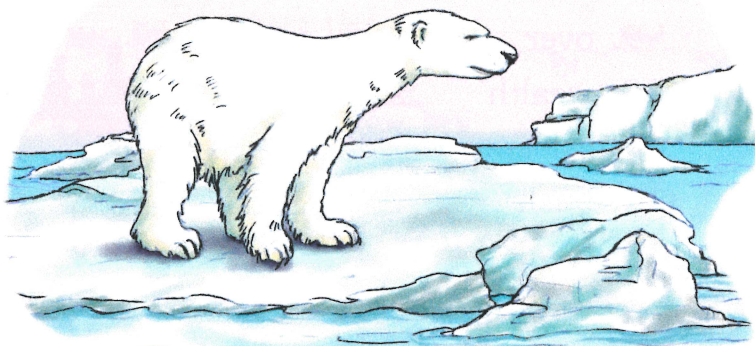


Reading

A Read the text.

The Polar Bear



The polar bear lives in the frozen lands of the Arctic. The Inuit call him 'Nanook'. The bear's short legs, long body and slender snout give the *impression* of a slow-moving animal. Do not be *deceived*! Though weighing over 700 kilograms, the polar bear can travel at speeds of more than 48 kilometres per hour!

He is so strong that a single blow of his mighty paw can break the neck of an ox.

Polar bears are expert divers and swimmers. You may meet them 160–300 kilometres out in the ocean calmly riding along on a floating iceberg or swimming gracefully in the freezing water. Thick layers of fat allow them to remain a long time in such cold water.

Polar bears have special eyelids that shield their eyes from the glare of snow and ice. The soles of their feet are padded with fur to prevent them from slipping on the ice and packed snow.

The polar bear's favourite meal is seal flesh. This huge white hunter of the Arctic follows the migrating seals. He is able to pick up the scent of seal blubber as far away as 30 kilometres. When a polar bear finds a seal's breathing hole in the ice, he sits patiently near the mouth of the hole with his paw raised, ready to strike. The moment the seal appears, the bear's mighty claws of steel come down. He seldom misses his target.

The deadly killer whale is the polar bear's greatest enemy. In the water, the bear is no match for this huge sea mammal. They must also keep a sharp look-out for their enemy, the walrus, who is bigger and stronger than they are. Sometimes the fearless polar bear will sneak up on a sleeping walrus and hit it with a block of frozen ice.

The female bear gives birth to one or two cubs in a deep cave or snow tunnel. The newborn cubs weigh less than a kilogram and are blind and naked. The *devoted* mother protects her young and feeds them throughout the long winter. They remain with her for about two years. During this time, the female bear is very dangerous and will bravely defend her young against attack. When the young polar bears are strong enough, they wander off to lead their own *solitary* lives in the land of snow and ice.



Activities

A Answer these questions.

1. In what part of the world does the polar bear live?
2. Why is he called the 'white hunter'?
3. How is it shown that the polar bear has great strength?
4. Why does he not freeze in the Arctic waters?
5. What protection does he have from the glare of the snow?
6. Why does the polar bear not slip on the ice?
7. What is the bear's favourite food?
8. What enemies does the polar bear have?
9. Where are the cubs born?

B Look up the words in *italics> in your dictionary. Write a sentence for each one.*

C Summarise the story in your own words. Use about ten sentences.

D Find these 12 Arctic words in the wordsearch.

Inuit
Nanook
blubber
claw
cub
fish
iceberg
mammal
polar bear
seals
snow
walrus

q	N	i	w	d	a	z	l	g	h	i	g
r	a	w	m	m	y	v	r	s	r	n	r
p	n	i	a	z	d	o	i	w	g	n	c
t	o	g	m	x	e	f	v	g	q	h	m
g	o	l	m	d	p	s	w	g	k	x	h
w	k	r	a	c	l	o	r	o	u	z	v
v	h	s	l	r	n	e	b	y	l	v	m
u	j	I	n	s	b	l	u	b	b	e	r
f	c	n	v	e	q	e	s	w	f	k	k
z	e	u	c	a	p	w	a	l	r	u	s
d	a	i	b	l	e	l	q	r	i	q	r
t	h	t	n	s	c	w	n	y	k	s	f