Polar Bear Facts

Polar bears are the world's largest land carnivore—up to 10 feet tall!

Their 12-inch-wide paws enable them to run fast—up to 25 mph!

- **The polar bear is a marine mammal.** Its scientific name is Ursus maritimus, meaning "sea bear."
- **Polar bears live in the Arctic regions of five countries:** Greenland, Norway, Canada, Russia, and the U.S.
- **Polar bears are descended from brown bears** isolated in the Arctic 150,000 years ago. Their bodies grew bigger for protection from the cold and their snouts grew longer so they could smell prey better.
- **They are strong swimmers and have blubber up to 4 inches thick**, for buoyancy as well as warmth. Their large feet act as paddles and help spread their weight for walking on ice.
- **They are so well adapted to the Arctic that they are more likely to overheat than suffer from cold.** Two layers of insulating fur, and their small ears and tails help prevent heat loss.

A scene from the new IMAX® documentary *To The Arctic*.

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- **Their white fur is actually transparent with no white pigment.** It is the reflection of the sun that causes the fur to appear white.
- **They depend on floating platforms of sea ice to survive.** The bears use these platforms for hunting ringed seals, their favorite prey.
- **They have curved, non-retractable claws, and bumps on the pads** of their feet so they don't slip while walking on ice.
- **Polar bears are born blind and toothless in a den built by their mother.** They are usually born as twins. They spend a few months in the den, growing rapidly from their mother's rich milk.
- **A mother polar bear stays with her cubs for about 2.5 years**, teaching them how to hunt and survive on the sea ice.
- **Aside from mothers and cubs, polar bears don't winter in dens like other bears**. They can enter a state of "walking hibernation" by reducing their metabolic rate while staying active.

IMAX® TO THE ARCTIC
A MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILM
FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND IMAX CORPORATION

See the IMAX® film, To The Arctic, *the first co-production from Warner Bros. Pictures, MacGillivray Freeman Films, and IMAX Corporation, opening exclusively in select IMAX theatres starting April 20th, 2012. Presented by One World One Ocean.*

Read the companion book, To The Arctic, *featuring photographs by award-winning wildlife photographer Florian Schulz. Foreword by Dr. Sylvia Earle. www.welcometothearctic.org*

The Arctic Ice Cap is shrinking each summer—and by 2050 or earlier will be reduced to a small fringe on the coast of Canada and Greenland. Only about 20,000 polar bears remain, and their survival is in jeopardy.