

A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up



Polar bears live in ice and snow. A polar bear baby is a cub. A cub is born with its eyes closed. It does not have much hair. A cub drinks its mother's milk. The mother keeps the cub warm.

The cub grows bigger. Soon the cub can walk. Its mother shows it how to hunt. She shows it how to swim. The cub likes to play. It rolls in the snow.

The cub grows stronger. The cub learns to swim. It can find its own food. Now the cub can live by itself.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What is a cub?

- a) a baby polar bear
- b) a fish
- c) a grown up polar bear

2. The passage describes a polar bear that is born. What is a polar bear like when it is first born?

- a) It likes to play and roll in the snow.
- b) Its eyes are closed and it does not have much hair.
- c) It can swim and find its own food.

3. If a polar bear cub can walk, play, and swim, what do we know about the cub?

- a) The cub was just born.
- b) The cub grew bigger since it was born.
- c) The cub cannot live in ice and snow.

4. What is "A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up" mostly about?

- a) what a polar bear cub must learn to live by itself
- b) what a newborn cub is like
- c) what a newborn cub is like *and* what it must learn to live by itself

5. A) What can a polar bear cub do when it can live by itself?

B) Draw a picture of a bigger polar bear cub who is learning to live by itself (not a newborn cub).



6. What did you learn from "A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up"?

7. Class Discussion Question: Why is it important for a polar bear to learn how to hunt and swim? Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 260

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What is a cub?

- a) **a baby polar bear**
- b) a fish
- c) a grown up polar bear

2. The passage describes a polar bear that is born. What is a polar bear like when it is first born?

- a) It likes to play and roll in the snow.
- b) **Its eyes are closed and it does not have much hair.**
- c) It can swim and find its own food.

3. If a polar bear cub can walk, play, and swim, what do we know about the cub?

- a) The cub was just born.
- b) **The cub grew bigger since it was born.**
- c) The cub cannot live in ice and snow.

4. What is "A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up" mostly about?

- a) what a polar bear cub must learn to live by itself
- b) what a newborn cub is like
- c) **what a newborn cub is like and what it must learn to live by itself**

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What can a polar bear cub do when it can live by itself?

Suggested answer: find its own food

B) Draw a picture of a bigger polar bear cub who is learning to live by itself (not a newborn cub).

Suggested answer: Students' pictures may vary but should include a white polar bear cub that is doing any of the following: learning to hunt/swim, rolling in the snow, walking. The cub should have hair and open eyes.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Class Discussion Question: Why is it important for a polar bear to learn how to hunt and swim? Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Students should communicate that by learning to hunt and swim, a polar bear is able to find its own food. Once it learns to find its own food, the cub can then live by itself. More advanced answers should suggest that these are important skills for polar bears to develop so that they can survive on their own and grow into adult polar bears.