

## **Animals and Adaption**

Animals have special adaptations that help them survive in their habitats. One of the most interesting is the polar bear of the Arctic. To stay warm, polar bears have two layers of fur. The hairs of the outer coat are hollow, increasing their insulating ability. They also have a thick, warm coat of fur below the outer coat. Underneath their fur, polar bears have black skin which helps absorb heat. Underneath this skin, polar bears can put on a layer of fat for even more insulation. In fact, during the cold of winter this fat may be over 4 inches thick! Polar bears in warm-weather zoos can also adapt quite well. Their hollow hairs hold water, providing cooling. When living in a warm climate, they do not put on the thick fat layer because extra insulation is not needed. While polar bears do occasionally eat sea vegetation and berries, they prefer to hunt. In fact, they are the best hunters of all bears.

When on land, they often camouflage themselves by placing their paws over their black nose and mouth. Polar bears have the best vision of any bear and an excellent sense of smell. Fur and rough bumps on the soles of their wide snowshoe-like feet provide traction on ice. Polar bears are well adapted for swimming in search of their favourite food, seals. They use their partially webbed front feet to paddle, while steering with their back feet. They have a more elongated body and head than other bears. This shape helps them move through the water. In fact, this marine mammal can swim for 60 miles without stopping.

### **Reading Test:**

Fluency: \_\_\_\_/5   Pronunciation: \_\_\_\_/5   Understanding: \_\_\_\_/5   Meaning: \_\_\_\_/5

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q. Write and learn the spellings of the underlined words in the text.**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 2. _____  |
| 3. _____  | 4. _____  |
| 5. _____  | 6. _____  |
| 7. _____  | 8. _____  |
| 9. _____  | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 12. _____ |

**Q. Write the meanings of the following words in the spaces provided.**

- |               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| a. insulation | _____ |
| b. camouflage | _____ |
| c. elongate   | _____ |
| d. marine     | _____ |
| e. partial    | _____ |

**Q. Answer the following questions to the text 'Animals and Adaptation' in full sentences.**

a. Why are certain animals able to adapt in certain environments?

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b. Where is the polar bear's habitat?

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c. How do polar bears survive the severe cold weather of their habitat?

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d. Are polar bears able to adapt to warmer conditions? How?

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e. What do polar bears occasionally eat?

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f. What are polar bears best at?

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g. How do they camouflage themselves?

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h. What is said about the senses of polar bears?

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i. Which physical features allow the polar bear to adapt in water?

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