

# Vanishing Species

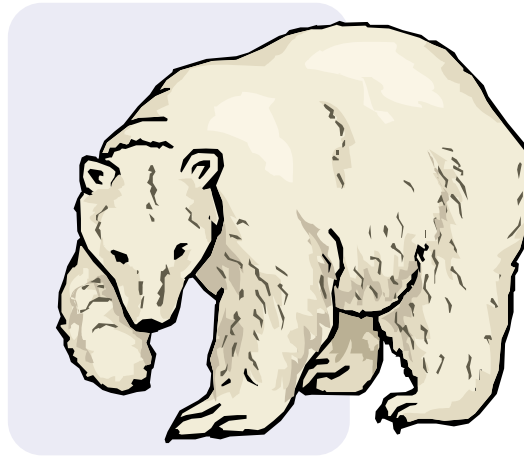


Name \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES	GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE	HABITAT	REASON FOR ENDANGERMENT

## About Polar Bears

The polar bear is a mighty hunter of seals. The most [carnivorous](#) of the bears, it is also the most patient. They will sit near a seal blow-hole for hours, waiting, until the animal surfaces. When it does, it is all over for the seal. One powerful blow from a forepaw brings a swift meal for the bear and a swifter death for the seal. The conditions of the polar north are harsh, with temperatures well below freezing almost constantly. In order to survive, the polar bear has to be an expert survivalist, able to cope with the grueling conditions of his environment. Like a giant solar panel, the skin of the bear is black to draw every bit of possible heat from the sunlight. The hairs of the pelt appear to be white, but are actually translucent and transmit the light down to the skin. Below these hairs are "underhairs" of orange or yellow. The females are smaller, the largest of them being only about 600 pounds.



# Polar Bears



*Ursus maritimus*

**Save the polar bear  
from extinction!**



## What can kids do to help save threatened species?

### Conserve habitats

One of the most important ways to help threatened plants and animals survive is to protect their habitats permanently in national parks, nature reserves or wilderness areas. There they can live without too much interference from humans. It is also important to protect habitats outside reserves such as on farms and along roadsides.

You can visit a nearby national park or nature reserve. Some national parks have special guided tours and walks for kids. Talk to the rangers to find out whether there are any threatened species and how they are being protected. You and your friends might be able to help the rangers in their conservation work. When you visit a national park, make sure you obey the wildlife code: follow fire regulations; leave your pets at home; leave flowers, birds' eggs, logs and bush rocks where you find them; put your rubbish in a bin or, better still, take it home.



### They need our help now!

The main reason that animals and plants become extinct or threatened is because their habitat has been destroyed or changed. Their habitat is the place where they live. It contains all that they need to survive: space, light, water, food, shelter and a place to breed.

Humans have a lot of power to change and destroy habitats. Pollution from cars and trucks, chemicals and introduced animals and plants that have gone wild all have an effect on natural environments. So does clearing native vegetation to make way for farming, building roads and cities, and damming rivers to provide water for people.

World Wildlife Fund



From the outset, WWF has worked to protect endangered species. We're working to ensure that the world our children inherit will be home to rhinos, tigers, giant pandas, whales, and other wildlife species, as well as people.

Every species loss diminishes the diversity of life on Earth with untold consequences for the web of life. Yet, at present rates of extinction, as much as 20 percent of the world's species could be gone in the next 30 years.

For more about what WWF is doing to save endangered species, or for information on just some of the fascinating animals we're working to protect, go to [www.wildlifefund.org](http://www.wildlifefund.org)

