

Name: _____

Blizzard Bag 1 Due

The Amazingly Adapted Polar Bear

by Guy Belleranti

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 don't put on the thick fat layer because extra insulation isn't 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 to ice floes in search of their favorite 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.

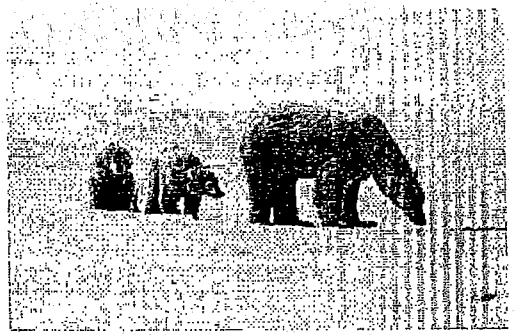
About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with animals and teaching others.

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1. What color is a polar bear's skin?

- a. white
- b. gray
- c. light yellow
- d. black

2. How does a polar bear's skin color help it to survive in the cold winter?

3. Are polar bears carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores? _____

4. How does the elongated head and body of a polar bear help it to survive?

- a. They help the polar bear hide in the snow.
- b. They help the polar bear swim through water more quickly.
- c. They help keep the polar bear warm.
- d. They help polar bears find berries and sea vegetation.

5. Read the following sentence from the article.

This marine mammal can swim for 60 miles without stopping.

Which is the best definition for the underlined word.

- a. animal from the Arctic
- b. animal that does not get tired easily
- c. animal that spends a lot of time in the water
- d. animal with four legs

6. Read the following sentence from the article.

Fur and rough bumps on the soles of their wide snowshoe-like feet provide traction on ice.

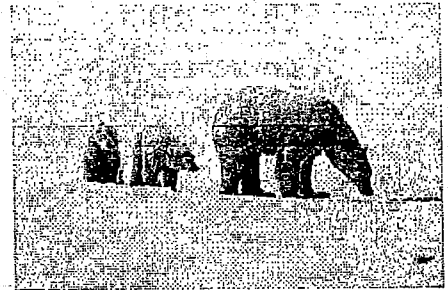
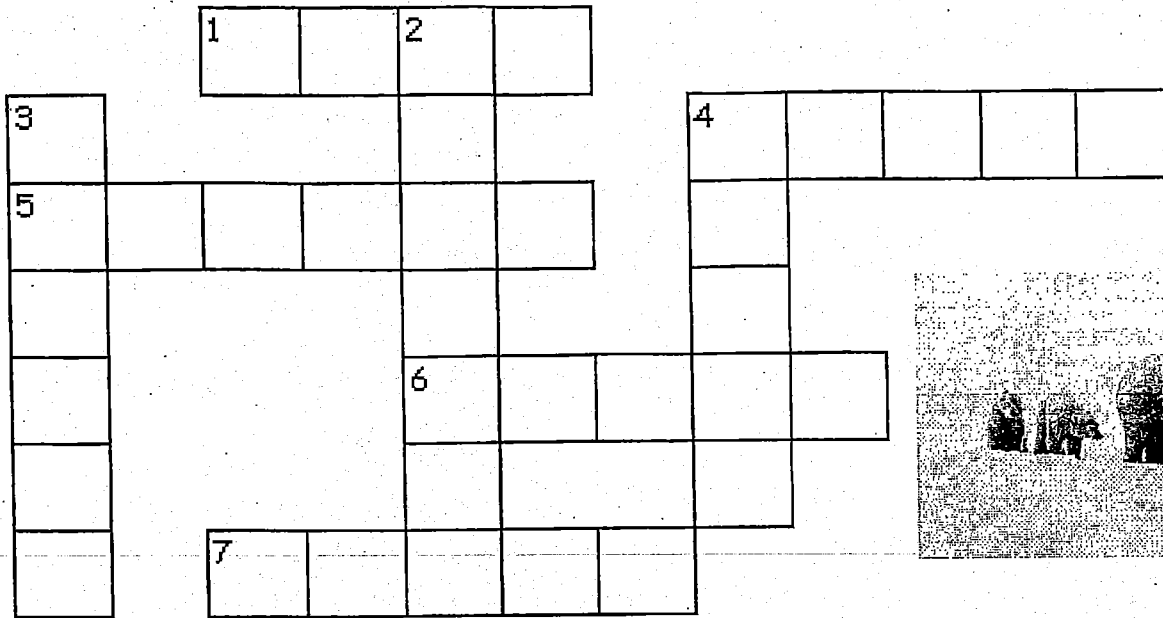
Which is the best definition for the underlined word.

- a. ability to avoid slipping
- b. ability to jump high
- c. ability to slide on something
- d. ability to keep warm

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Crossword



Use information from the article to complete the crossword puzzle.

Across

1. Polar bears love to hunt this animal.
4. This is the number of miles a polar bear can swim without stopping.
5. This is the region of the world where polar bears live.
6. The hairs on a polar bear's ___ coat are hollow.
7. This is the color of a polar bear's skin.

Down

2. The Reid Park Zoo is located in this state.
3. When swimming, a polar bear's front legs do this.
4. When swimming, a polar bear's back legs do this.

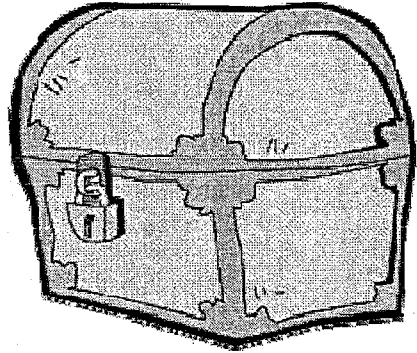
Name _____

Date _____

Multi-Step Word Problems - Independent Practice Worksheet

Solve the problems below:

1) Andrew discovered a buried treasure box. He opened it up and found that it contained 682 diamonds and 117 rubies. He sold 45 gems and bought 130 gems. How many gems does he have now?



2) Jenna was alone in the house for two months. To pass the time, she read 216 comics and 150 novels. How many books did she read? She went to her friends Emilia's house for 5 hours and went for shopping for 1 hour. How many hours was she gone?

3) Jenny wants to buy a history book that costs \$8, an art book that costs \$4, and a children's drawing book that costs \$10. She has saved \$18 from her pocket money. How much more money does Jenny need to buy all three books?

4) Shelly bought 7 boxes of fish food and 2 packets of cat food. Each box of fish food contained 6 pouches, and each packet of cat food contained 4 pouches. How many more pouches of fish food than cat food did Shelly buy?

5) Harry bought 3 packets of red plastic balls, 2 packets of yellow plastic balls, and 3 packets of green plastic balls. There were 12 plastic balls in each packet. How many plastic balls did Harry buy in all?



Name _____

Date _____

6) Drew's friend gave him \$100. Drew bought 9 bats. Each bat costs \$10. How much money is Drew left with?

7) Evan's desk drawer has 9 fountain pens. There are 5 more ball pens than fountain pens. There are also 6 more pencils than fountain pens. How many pens are there in all?

8) Emily had 13 flowers. She purchased 15 flowers from a florist in the mall and she got 29 flowers for her birthday. Emily gave 5 of the flowers to her friend and used 18 to decorate a basket. How many flowers does Emily have left?

9) Four families went to the zoo. Each family has 2 adults and 2 children. The entry fee for each child ticket costs \$3, and an adult ticket costs \$5. How much will the zoo tickets cost in total?

10) Sally needs 55 cupcakes for a Christmas party. She already has 14 chocolate cupcakes and 16 strawberry cupcakes. How many more cupcakes should Sally buy?

