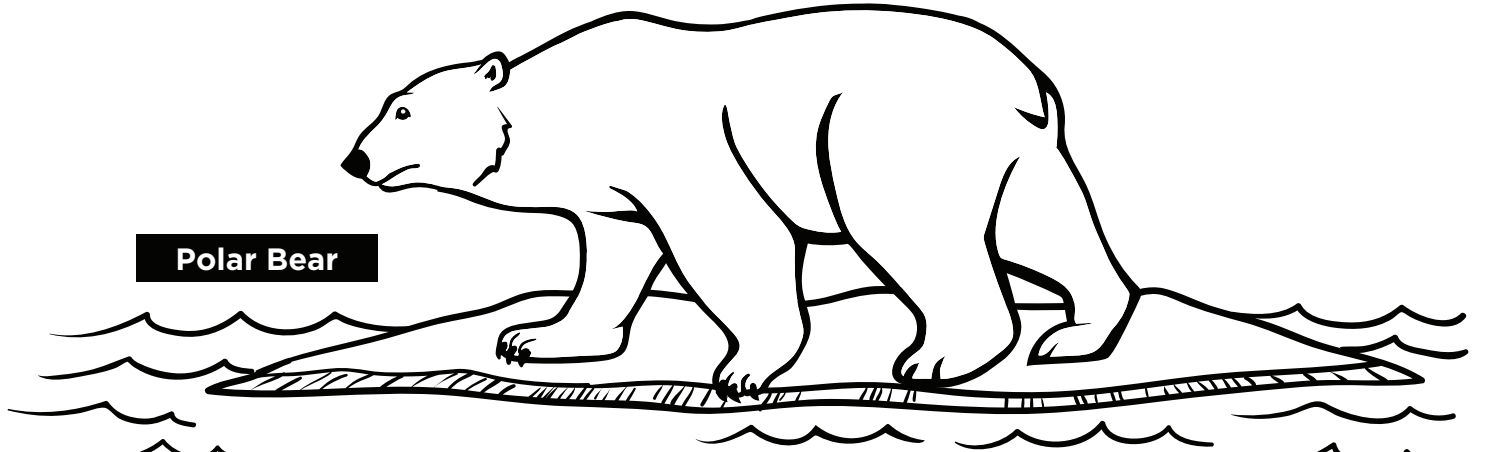
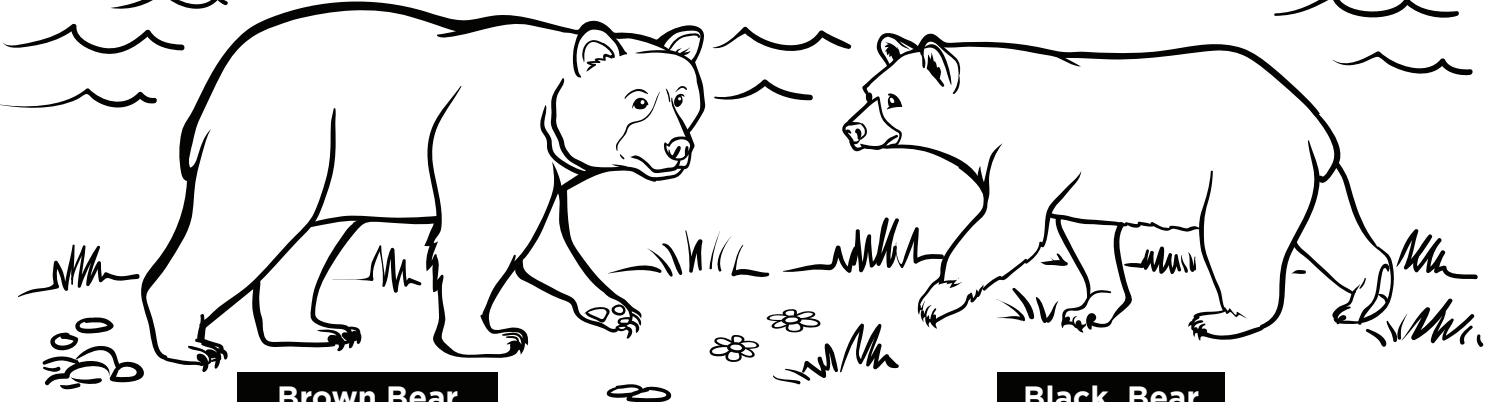


What Is a Polar Bear?

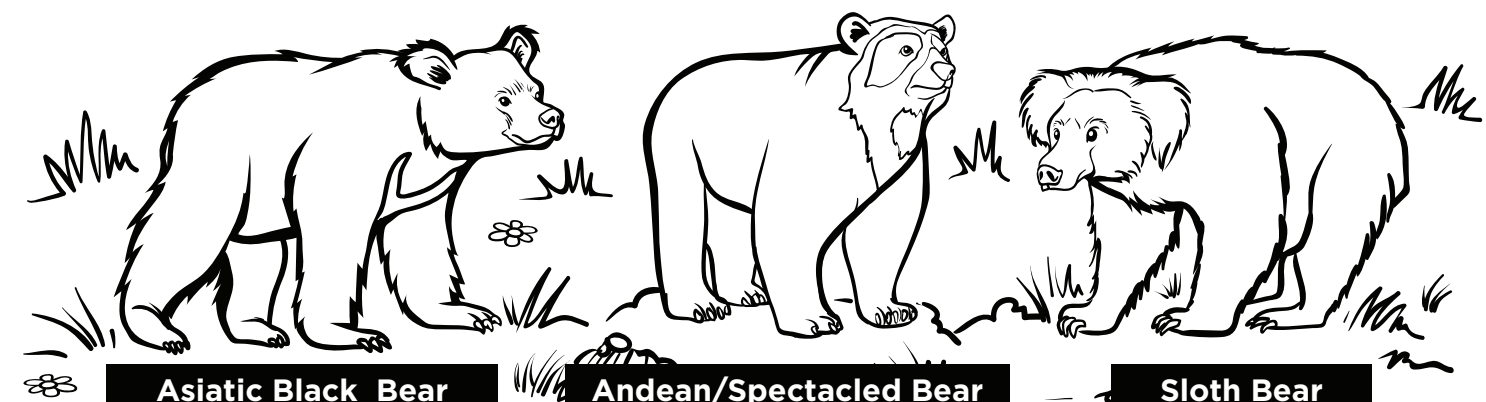


Polar Bear



Brown Bear

Black Bear



Asiatic Black Bear

Andean/Spectacled Bear

Sloth Bear

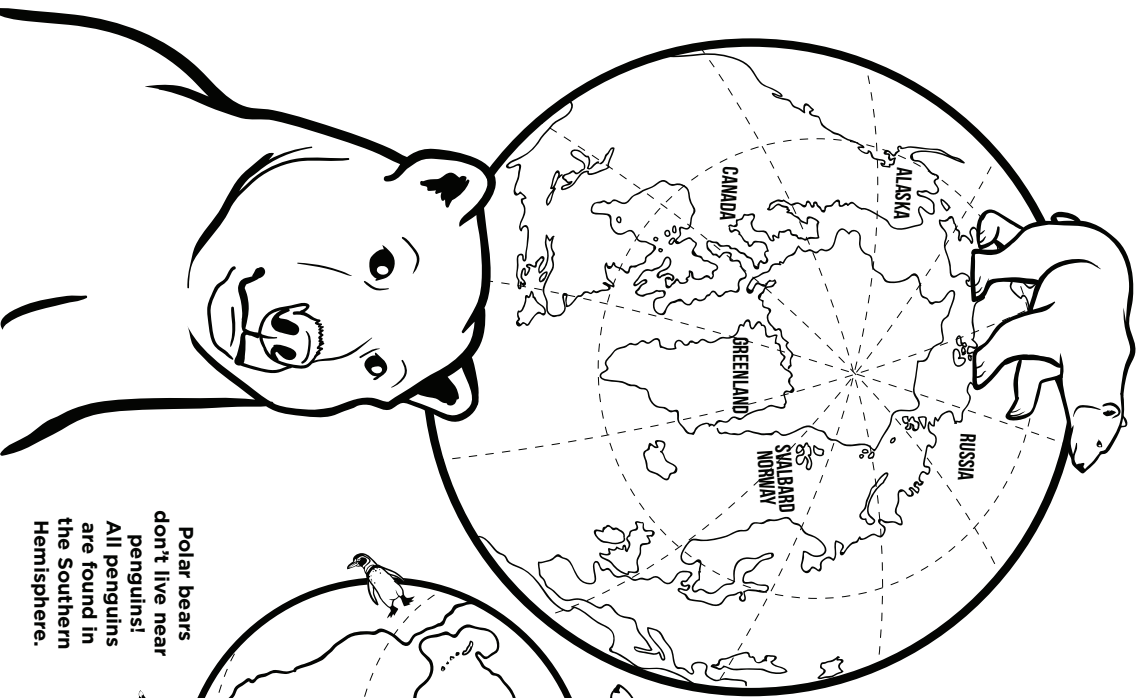


Giant Panda

Sun Bear

Polar bears are the biggest bears of all! They are also the only bear that needs the land *and* the sea, because they use sea ice as a platform to find food. Polar bears need sea ice to survive!

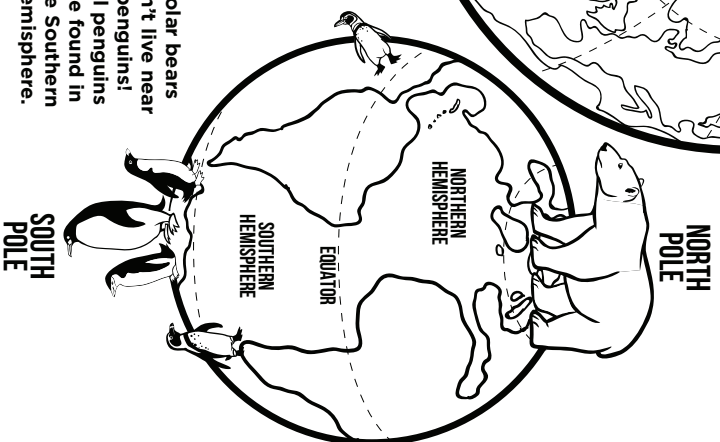
Where Do Polar Bears Live?



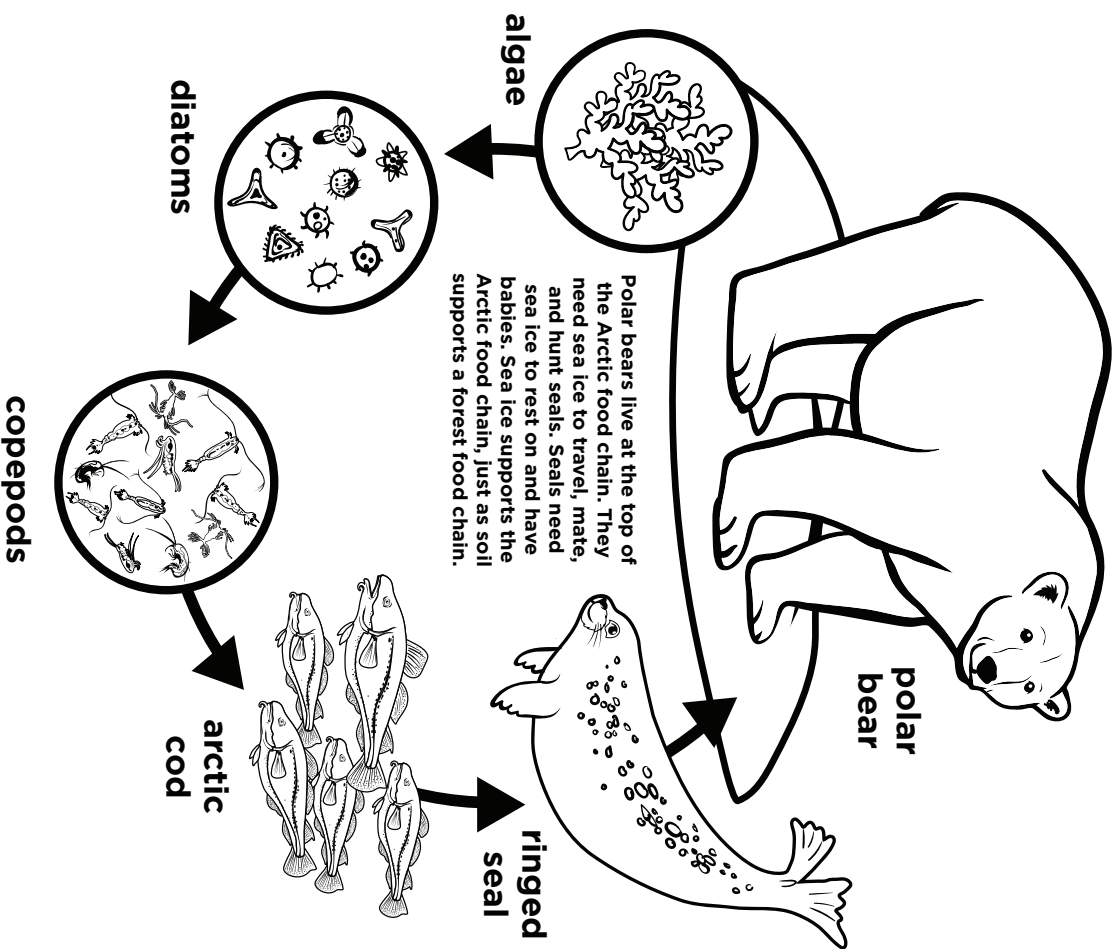
Polar bears are found in Canada, the U.S. (Alaska), Greenland, Norway (Svalbard), and Russia.

They are called by different names across the Arctic, including nanuq and Isbjørn.

Polar bears don't live near penguins! All penguins are found in the Southern Hemisphere.



Sea Ice Is Important



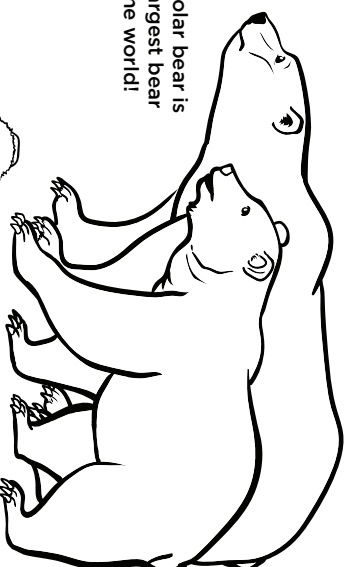
Built for Hunting Seals



A polar bear's favourite food is seal blubber.

- They have large teeth and claws that help them catch seals. Their jaws, necks, and bodies are very strong—made for pulling seals from the water.
- They have very large paws. These help spread their weight so they don't break through the sea ice.
- They are also very patient. Sometimes they wait quietly by a seal hole for many hours before eating dinner!

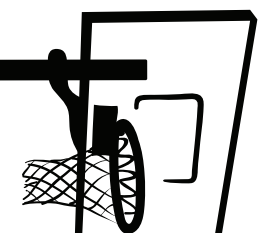
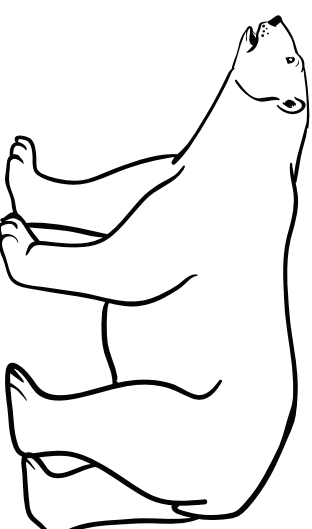
Comparing Polar Bears to ...



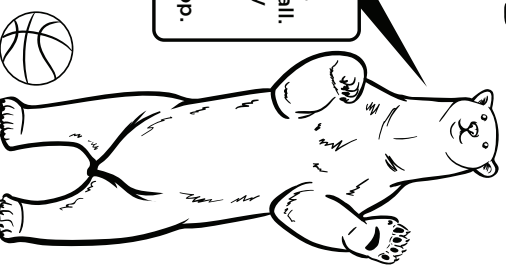
The polar bear is the largest bear in the world!

The brown bear is the second largest.

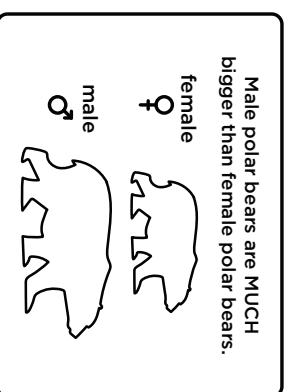
On all four legs, a polar bear is 1.5 metres, almost as tall as an adult man.



A standing polar bear is three metres tall. That is nearly as tall as a regulation basketball hoop.



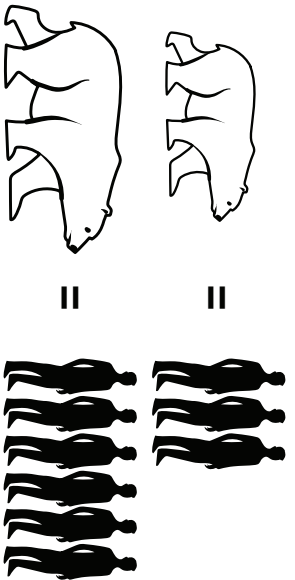
Polar bears have paws the size of dinner plates.



Male polar bears are MUCH bigger than female polar bears.

average female
weighs 200 kg

average male
weighs 400 kg



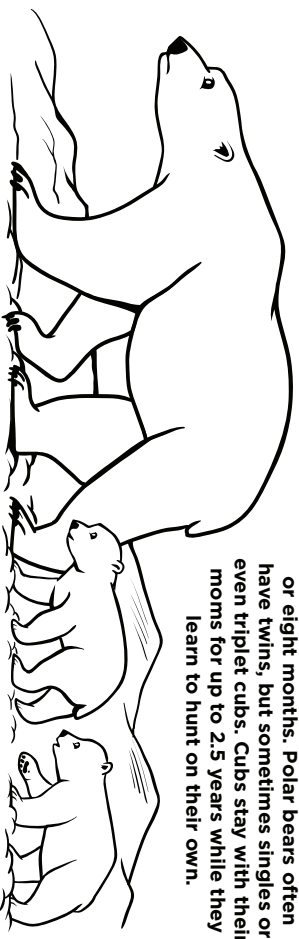
Built for Cold



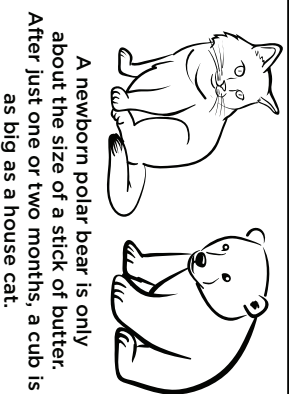
Polar bears are made for living in the Arctic, one of the coldest regions on Earth!

- Fat over seven centimetres thick to keep them warm and help them float when swimming.
- Two layers of fur that cover even the bottoms of their feet! This fur is hollow and clear to trap warm air.
- Their ears and tail are small to prevent heat from escaping their bodies.

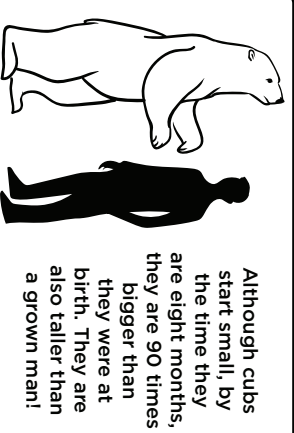
Families



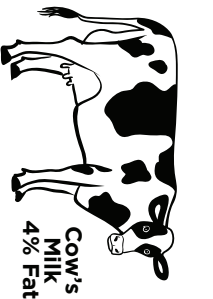
Females that are having young will stay on land from July through to the following February, about seven or eight months. Polar bears often have twins, but sometimes singles or even triplet cubs. Cubs stay with their moms for up to 2.5 years while they learn to hunt on their own.



A newborn polar bear is only about the size of a stick of butter. After just one or two months, a cub is as big as a house cat.



Although cubs start small, by the time they are eight months, they are 90 times bigger than they were at birth. They are also taller than a grown man!

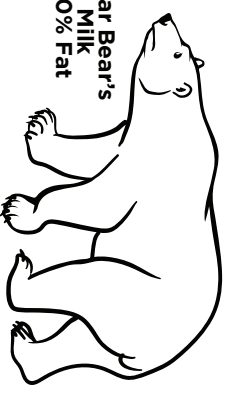


Cow's Milk
4% Fat

The main reason polar bear cubs grow so fast is because their mother's milk is high in fat. Polar bear milk is 30% fat. Cow milk is just 4% fat.



Polar Bear's Milk
30% Fat



Polar bear homes are huge! One bear can easily cover half a million square kilometres, larger than Canada's Yukon, or California!

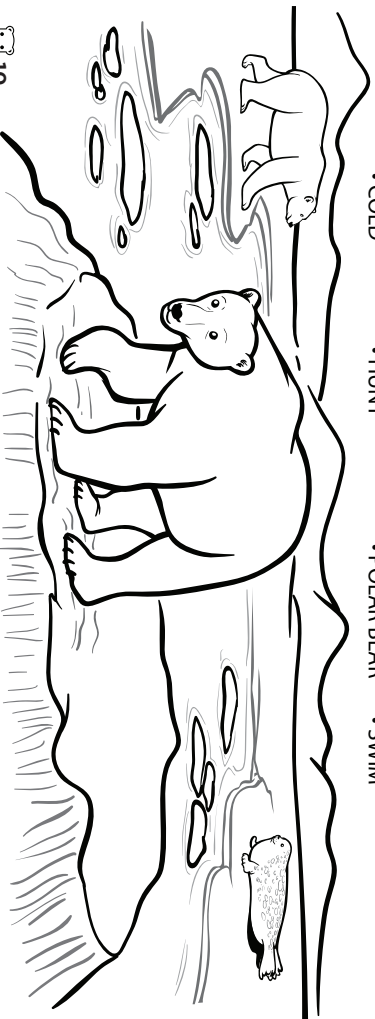
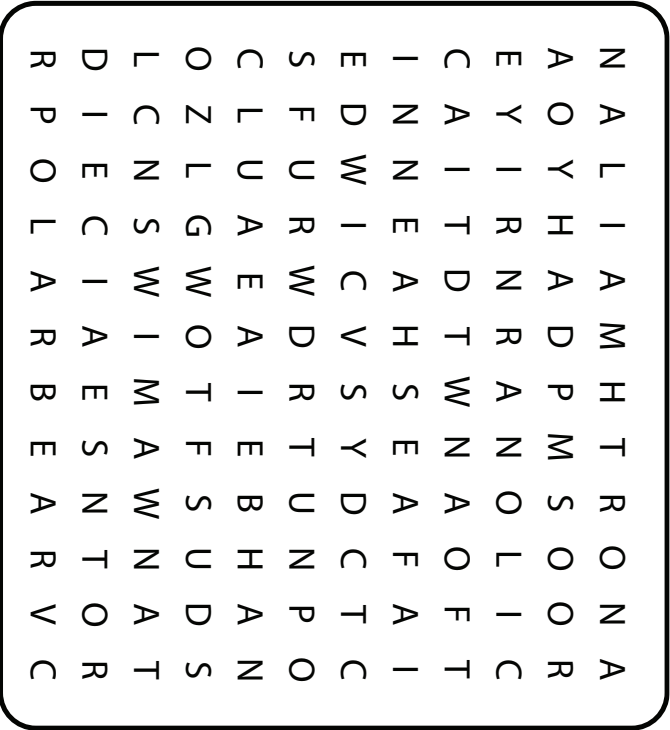
What Do Polar Bears Like Doing?



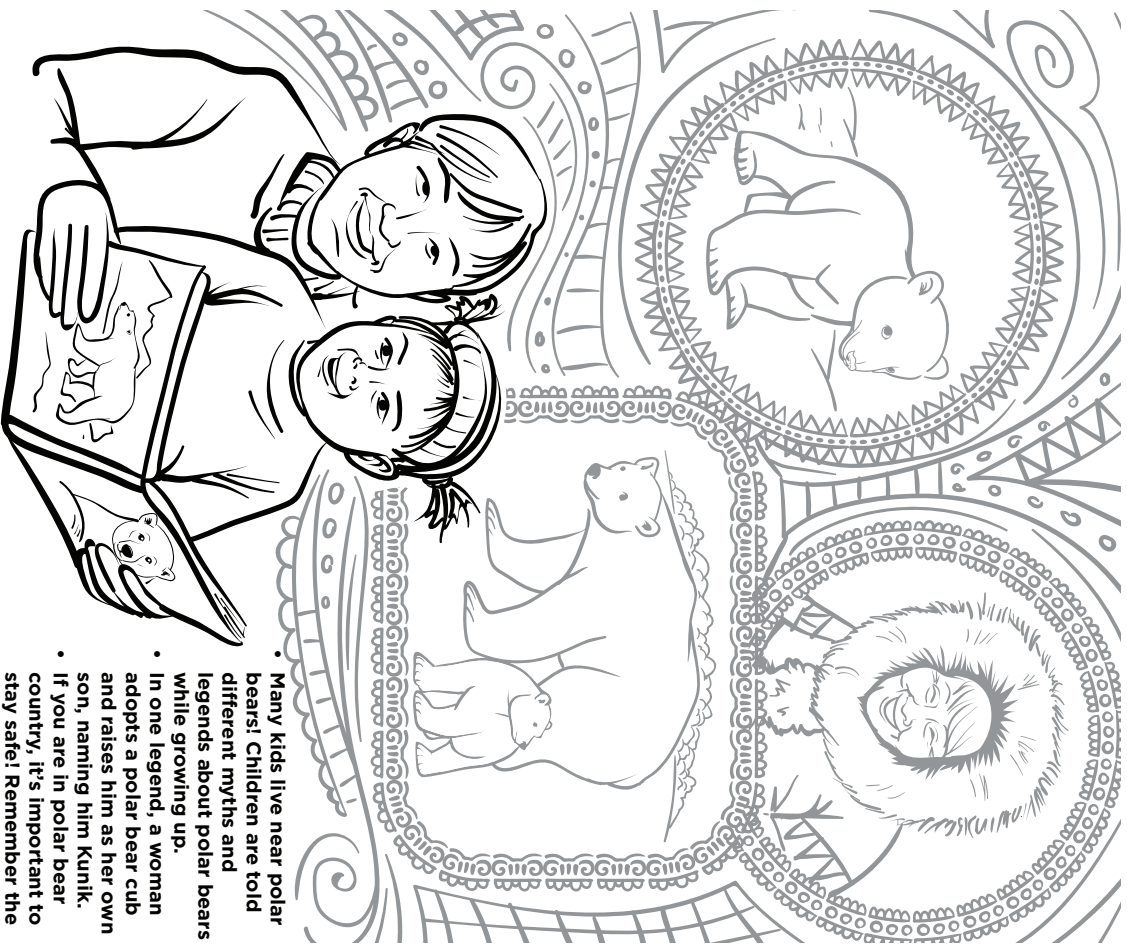
What Do People Like Doing?



Polar Bear Word Search



Kids and Polar Bears



- Many kids live near polar bears! Children are told different myths and legends about polar bears while growing up.
- In one legend, a woman adopts a polar bear cub and raises him as her own son, naming him Kuntik.
- If you are in polar bear country, it's important to stay safe! Remember the following tips and listen to your elders to stay safe.