



Interesting Facts About Polar Bears

Suggested Grade Level 5

Objective	Work cooperatively in a small group to learn five facts about polar bears from library and or Internet research and share the facts with the class.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVMA poster • Library • Internet access • Construction paper • Markers

<p>Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Research issues <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science in personal and social perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher shows a picture of a polar bear and asks if anyone can identify the animal. The teacher leads a discussion with the class sharing information about polar bears such as where they live, what they eat, etc. • The teacher explains that the class will be working in groups of four. Each group will go to the library to do research about polar bears. Each group records at least five polar bear facts they think are important. The facts can come from books, periodicals, or Internet research. Facts might relate to anatomy, fur, diet, habitat, degree of endangerment, conservation efforts, etc. • The facts must include at least one idea about what zoos and/or veterinarians do to help preserve the polar bear species. • Tell students to search sites such as zoos, wildlife services, and conservation societies for help in locating polar bear facts. • After the groups have completed their research they will each share one of their facts with the entire class. No two groups may share the same fact. • Next, the groups check their remaining facts and if they have not been mentioned, they share them with the class. • Now each group uses words and/or a drawing on construction paper to illustrate their favorite polar bear fact from their list. • The drawings/words are added to a classroom bulletin board about polar bears as an example of an endangered species.
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Ideas to extend this lesson	<p>Compare the average weight and height of a human male and female with the same information for a polar bear male and female. Draw four pictures (male human, male bear, female human and female bear) showing the relative size of each. The following sites will assist with your calculations:</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_weight and</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear.</p>
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