

How Do Polar Bears Stay Warm?

Polar bears live in the Arctic Circle and walk on ice and swim in waters that can be below freezing. How do you think they are able to stay warm? Write down your *hypothesis*, or what you think keeps them warm.

Materials

- Large Bowl
- Ice
- Water
- 2 Plastic Sandwich Bags
- Vegetable Shortening .



Experiment

1. Fill bowl with ice and water
2. Briefly stick hand in water. Was it cold? (yes, of course it was)
3. Fill one sandwich bag halfway with shortening
4. Now for the messy part (have towels ready), stick one hand in the empty plastic bag, and stick the other hand in the bag with shortening.
5. Smoosh the shortening around until its covering your hand (still inside the bag)
6. With both hands in bags, stick them in the bowl and make observations about the temperature difference.
7. Now clean up you messy goose, or should I say polar bear?

Polar Bear Fun Facts

- Their blubber layer can be as thick as 4 inches
- Their fur may be white, but their skin is black to help absorb the sun's rays
- They can swim for days on end and up to 6mph
- They can smell they're next meal from up to a kilometer away
- Polar Bears are classified as a marine mammal because of their dependency on the ocean

