Mom and Cub Facts

Pregnant females dig a snow or peat den in the fall, give birth, and emerge about 3–5 months later. During this time, they live off their fat reserves. Adult males and nonpregnant females don't den at all!

During her time in the den, the mother does not eat, drink, or pass waste. In western Hudson Bay, pregnant females can go for up to 8 months without eating!

When polar bear cubs are born, they are only slightly larger than a stick of butter. Cubs grow rapidly, thanks to the calories in their mother's rich milk, which is about 31% fat—the fattiest milk found on land!

One of the most critical times in a polar bear's life cycle is the denning period, when vulnerable young cubs depend completely on their moms for food and protection. Cubs will stay with their mom for up to 2.5 years.

Moms and cubs emerge from their den in March or April, which is around the same time seals are pupping on the sea ice. This helps ensure that when hungry families get back to the ice, there's lots of food to eat.

POLAR BEAR WORD SEARCH

See if you can find the list of words below in the box of letters.

- ❒ ARCTIC
- ❒ CANADA
- ❒ CLAW
- ❒ COLD
- ❒ CONSERVATION
- ❒ FAT
- ❒ FUR
- ❒ HUNT
- ❒ MARINE
- ❒ NORTH
- ❒ PAWS
- ❒ POLAR BEAR
- ❒ RINGED SEAL
- ❒ SAFETY
- ❒ SEA ICE
- ❒ SWIM

N	A	L	I	A	M	H	T	R	O	N	A
A	O	Y	H	A	D	P	M	S	O	O	R
E	Y	I	R	N	R	A	N	O	L	I	C
C	A	I	T	D	T	W	N	A	O	F	T
I	N	N	E	A	H	S	E	A	F	A	I
E	D	W	I	C	V	S	Y	D	C	T	C
S	F	U	R	W	D	R	T	U	N	P	O
C	L	U	A	E	A	I	E	B	H	A	N
O	Z	L	G	W	O	T	F	S	U	D	S
L	C	N	S	W	I	M	A	W	N	A	T
D	I	E	C	I	A	E	S	N	T	O	R
R	P	O	L	A	R	B	E	A	R	V	C

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