

Polar Bear Fishing Game

Play a fishing game and discover the polar bear's ocean diet!

Materials Needed:

Polar Bear Food Cards (or draw your own), scissors, tape, ribbon, stick or wooden dowel, yarn, paper clip, cardboard box. *Optional:* White paper.



Instructions:

Step 1: Cut out the Polar Bear Food Cards. Tape a loop of ribbon on the back of each card. Make sure the loop is large enough for young children to successfully “catch” it with a fishing pole.



Step 2: Assemble the fishing pole. Cut a piece of yarn about 12 inches (30 cm) long. Tie one end of the yarn to a stick, and the other end to a paper clip. Bend the paper clip open to make a hook.

Step 3: Place the Polar Bear Food Cards in a cardboard box. *Optional:* Cut a hole in the lid as a fishing hole. Decorate with white paper to make the box look like ice.

Step 4: Pretend you are a polar bear and go fishing! Use your fishing pole to “catch” each food card.

What kinds of foods did you catch? Did you catch anything that was not so good to eat? (Plastic garbage from around the world travels all the way up to the Arctic Ocean!)



Polar Bears and Sea Ice



Image: Flickr.

Polar bears are marine mammals. They prefer to live on pack ice away from land. That's because they like to stay close to their main food: seals. Even in the summer, they will swim great distances to find pack ice. Pregnant females make dens on the pack ice (or on land close to pack ice).

Watch a short video about polar bears:

oceantoday.noaa.gov/animals/softheice/polarbears/



Image: Wikimedia Commons.

In the summer, if the pack ice is too far, some polar bears will have to stay on land until winter comes again. They will live off the fat reserves from their rich winter diet.

Climate change is causing sea ice to melt faster in the Arctic. Without sea ice, polar bears cannot find enough food. Because their habitat is changing, polar bears are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Polar Bear Food Cards

Print and cut out. Tape a loop of ribbon to each card.



Ringed seal



Harp seal



Harbor seal



Bearded seal



Walrus



Narwhal



Beluga whale



Fish (Sculpin)



Crab



Shrimp

Note: Images are not to scale.

Polar Bear Food Cards

Print and cut out. Tape a loop of ribbon to each card.



Sea Birds



Kelp



Fish (Arctic Char)



Sea Ducks



White beaked dolphin



Sea Urchins



Mussels



Garbage and Plastics

Note: Images are not to scale. Image credits: Walrus: US Fish & Wildlife Service. Ringed seal, narwhal: NOAA. All others: Wikimedia Commons.