

Reading Task 1: The Polar Bear Crisis

Reading Passage: Arctic Vulnerability

The Polar Bear is a global symbol of the fight against climate change. It was one of the first animals to be classified as a **threatened** species primarily due to **global warming**. These magnificent animals spend most of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic, which serves as their critical **habitat**. It is from this icy platform that they hunt seals, their main food source, allowing them to build up fat **reserves** for the warmer months.

However, the Arctic is warming faster than any other region on Earth. This change is causing the sea ice to melt earlier and freeze later, resulting in a significantly shorter hunting season for the bears. When the ice disappears, the bears are forced to move to land, where food is scarce, or attempt long, dangerous swims to find solid ice. Many risk drowning from **exhaustion** and hunger because of these extended journeys.

The danger extends beyond the Polar Bear; every species in the Arctic food chain is threatened by the climate crisis. This situation highlights the importance of international **conservation efforts**. When a species is placed on the endangered list, it triggers laws that protect the animals from being hunted and provides funding for habitat recovery and breeding programs. While this is a vital first step, the long-term survival of the polar bear depends entirely on reversing the effects of climate change.

Task 1: Main Idea Comprehension (Multiple Choice): Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for each question.

1. What is the main purpose of the first paragraph?
 - A. To describe the polar bear's diet.
 - B. To introduce the polar bear and explain the primary threat it faces.
 - C. To argue that global warming only affects the Arctic.

2. What is the central problem discussed in the second paragraph?

- A. The bears are moving from land to the sea.
 - B. The shortening of the polar bear's hunting season due to melting ice.
 - C. The danger of other species taking the polar bear's food.
3. The author mentions the Arctic food chain and the endangered species list to primarily show:
- A. Polar bears are the only animals at risk.
 - B. The polar bear crisis is part of a larger, interconnected environmental problem.
 - C. International laws are not effective in saving animals.

Task 2: Vocabulary Matching: Find the words in bold from the reading passage and match them to their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. threatened	A. The state of extreme tiredness.
2. habitat	B. Money, food, or resources kept for future use.
3. reserves	C. Likely to be harmed or hurt; defenseless.
4. exhaustion	D. At risk of becoming endangered.
5. conservation efforts	E. The natural environment where an animal or plant lives.
6. vulnerable	F. Measures or work done to protect the natural world.

Task 3: Short Answer and Inference: Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Avoid copying entire sentences from the text.

1. What two things does the sea ice provide for polar bears?
2. Explain *how* the Arctic's warming climate affects the polar bear's ability to find food.
3. *Infer*. What is the author's overall message about saving the polar bear?

OpenAI. (2025). *ChatGPT* (Dec 30 version) [Large language model].

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