

## SECTION A

Read the story.

### POLAR BEARS



Polar bears are **1)our** biggest land predators and **2)they** can look frightening. An adult male can weigh up to 600 kilograms and be three meters long. When a polar bear stands on its two legs, **3)it** is taller than a man.

**4)Their habitat** is snow and ice in cold northern countries like Alaska, Greenland and Canada. In winter, they travel across the frozen seas looking for prey. They eat seals and other animals and they are excellent hunters.

They have white fur, so it is difficult to see them in the snow. They have sharp, strong claws which help them to catch and hold their prey. They also have long necks, small heads and large, flat feet. This makes them very strong swimmers.

Sadly, changes in climate mean that polar bears are now an endangered species. In places like Hudson Bay in Canada, temperatures have been getting warmer since 1950. This means that the sea has been freezing later every year, so the bears have less time to hunt on the ice. As a result, hungry bears go into towns looking for rubbish to eat.

Conservationists have tried to keep the bears away from towns, but sometimes **5)they** have to catch them as the bears can attack people when they are hungry. The bears are not killed. They are taken by helicopter far from the town so that the animals can look for food in their normal habitat.

## Questions 1 - 5

Look at the words which are numbered in the passage. What does each word refer to? Write the answer in the spaces provided.

1. our - \_\_\_\_\_

2. they - \_\_\_\_\_

3. it - \_\_\_\_\_

4. Their - \_\_\_\_\_

5. they - \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions 6 - 10

Underline the correct meaning of the word as it is used in the passage.

6. predators means    a) animals that hunt and eat other animals  
                                   b) animals that are hunted and eaten by other animals  
                                   c) animals that eat plants  
                                   d) animals that do not eat plants

7. habitat means        a) a place where animals hide  
                                   b) a place where animals are keep  
                                   c) a place where animals live naturally  
                                   d) a place where animals die

8. prey means            a) animals that hunt and eat other animals  
                                   b) animals that are hunted and eaten by other animals  
                                   c) animals that eat plants  
                                   d) animals that do not eat plants

9. endangered means
- a) very small in size
  - b) very few in numbers
  - c) very dark in colour
  - d) very big in size
10. Conservationists means
- a) someone who works to save the buildings
  - b) someone who works to save the water
  - c) someone who works to save the environment
  - d) someone who works to save the roads

Questions 11 - 15

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

11. How heavy is an adult male polar bear?

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12. Where can we find polar bears?

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13. Why do they have white fur?

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14. What do they use to help them catch their prey?

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15. Who do the polar bears attack when they are hungry?

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**/15 MARKS**