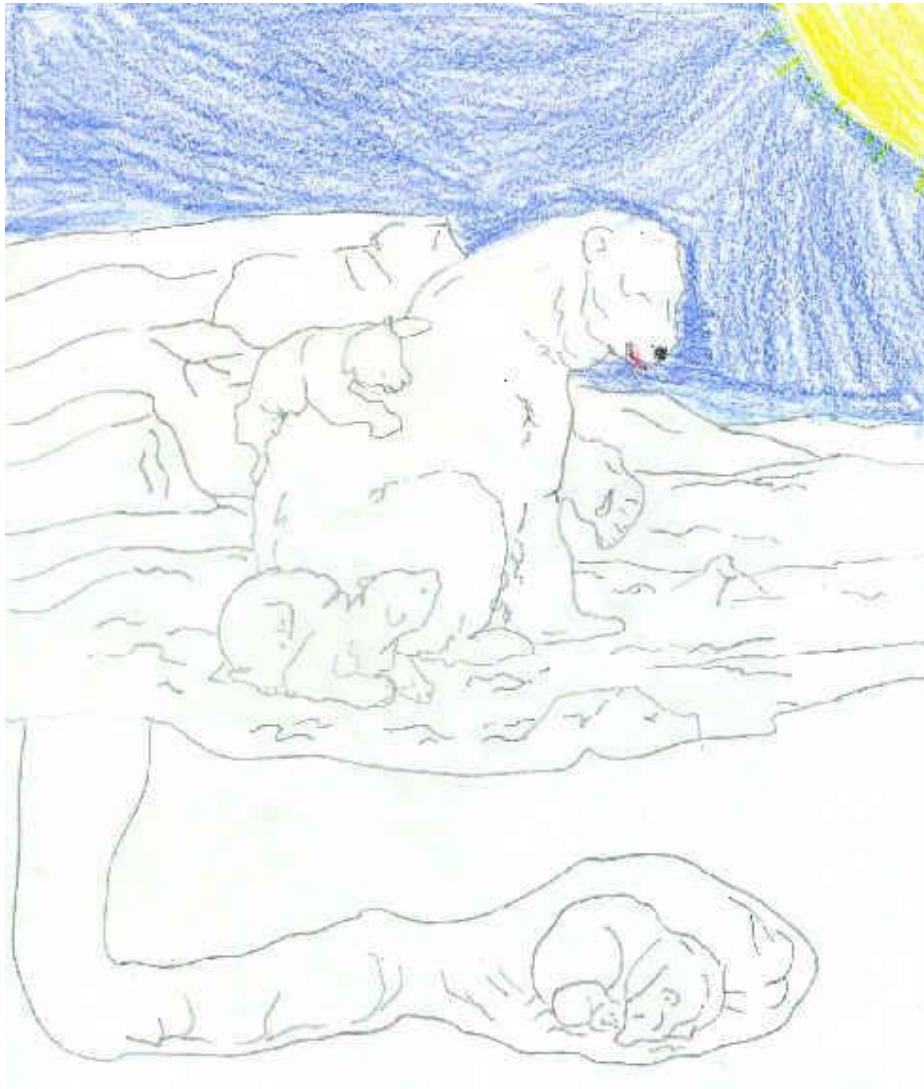


Polar Bear

by **BRYCE**



The Polar Bear is a mammal with the scientific name of *Ursus Maritimus* which means "Sea Bear" in Greek. Polar bears prefer to live along the shore and are found through out the ice-covered sea in the cold Arctic. The ice provides a platform for the polar bear to stand on while hunting for food. The polar bear waits near the seals' breathing hole in the ice, when the seal comes up for air the polar bear grabs the seal's head with it sharp teeth and dinner is served. Sometimes the polar bear will stock its prey, it sneaks up on its prey and grabs it with its sharp jaws. The other way the polar bear hunts for food it by swimming under the water while the seal takes its daily swim. Polar bears can smell a seal up to 40 miles away and can consume 150 pounds of food at one time. The adult male weighs between

750 lbs. to 1,700 lbs. The female is smaller and she can weigh from 330 lbs. to 720 lbs. A pregnant polar bear reaches 1,100 lbs. Polar bears reach up to 5 foot 3 inches high and from the tip of its nose to the end of its tale they are 8 feet 4 inches long. A pregnant polar bear makes a den in the earth and snow banks where she gives birth to one to three cubs that will weigh 1 - 1 1/2 lbs. She will nurse her cubs for 2 1/2 years. During this time she will protect and teach them how to hunt. The size of the home range relies on the yearly freezing and break up of the ice. The cubs learn this during the 2 years with there mother. The polar bear is thin with very strong shoulders and back legs. There color varies from silvery - white to light yellow. The polar bear has 42 teeth - incisor, canine, premolars and molars. The only enemies the polar bears has are humans and occasionally with adult walrus. The only time the walrus has the edge over the polar bear is in water. The U.S, Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the Soviet Union signed an agreement in 1973 to protect polar bears. Today, 25,000 to 40,000 polar bears roam the Arctic.