



International Polar Bear Day

Karamurugan. S

Ph.D., Research Scholar, Environmental Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, TN, India

Corresponding Author e-mail iD: murugankara011@gmail.com

Introduction

International polar bear day is celebrated every year on 27th February. The event raises awareness of the threats that polar bear face due to climate change, global warming and commercial activity. Polar bears are such an important part of our ecosystem and food chain. The arctic is the foundation to our arctic ecosystem. The ice of the arctic cycle is rapidly disappearing, ice and snow is melting at a master rate due to climate change and global warming, this results in less habitat for polar bears making it more challenging for them to thrive in their environment. Polar bear have to swim increased distances for food causing them to lose important fat reserves. The survival rate for some cubs is less than 45% in some areas. Increased commercial activity such as oil and gas exploration, shipping and mining affect polar bears ability to breed, hunt, travel and den.

PBI (Polar Bears International)

PBI created international polar bear day in 2011. Part of their goal was to protect denning polar bear families across the arctic. For this reason, PBI chose February 27th as it coincides with the time period that polar bear moms and cubs are snug in their dens.

General Characters of Polar bears

- The scientific name, *Ursus maritimus*
- Latin meaning of *Ursus maritimus* is 'sea bear'
- It is the largest bear in the world
- The Arctic's top predator

- Consider talented swimmers
- They are carnivorous
- They can run as fast as 40 km an hour
- Sexually dimorphic

Key Characters of Polar bears

- Pagophilic (ice-living)
- Hypercarnivore
- It is considered to be a Vulnerable species
- They are closely related to brown bears
- They have thick layer of body fat and water repellent coat
- Polar bear spend over 50% of their time hunting for food
- It has black skin under the white fur, the fur keeps them warm
- The black skin can absorb sunlight efficiently
- Their diet mainly consists of seals because they need large amounts of fat to survive
- Males tend to have much longer hair on their forelimbs
- Their eyes have many rod cells
- When two polar bears meet, they have a special way of greeting each other. They circle each other for a while, grunting, then they come closer and touches noses

How can we reduce our carbon footprints?

- Walk or take public transport if possible
- Consume foods that have minimal processes or packaging
- Purchase locally or organically grown food
- Turn off appliances when they are not in use like light switches to save energy
- Minimise consumption, reduce, reuse, recycle

How can we help polar bears?

The biggest problem for polar bear is climate change, humans can do some little things to try to stop the world from getting too warm, you can do your part by completing as many of eco-friendly task as possible within a week, try some of these

- Turn off the taps when brushing your teeth

- Switch off your lights, TV or games console when you are not using them
- Consume fewer animal products
- Try to travel by bike or foot instead of using a car
- Avoid plastic bags when you go for shopping, take your own reusable bags.
- Drink from a reusable water bottles
- Correctly recycle all packaging
- Buy less products with lots of packaging
- Play with non-electrical toys instead of computer or console
- Try to do as many as eco-friendly activities as you can.

Conclusion

Due to expansion of logging, agriculture and climate change, as well as human encroachment, bear populations are declining, celebrate world bear day to show support and raise awareness about the needs of these marvellous creatures.

Reference

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear>

<https://polarbearsinternational.org/>